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ABSTRACT

Papers on national libraries which were presented at the 1986 International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) conference include: (1) "Dangers for the Modern Information Society in the Computer Age" (Franz Georg Kaltwasser, West Germany); (2) "Functions and Objectives of the National Libraries in the Developing Countries" (J. Le Riverend, Cuba); (3) "Preservation of Library Materials--A Report on the Vienna International Conference from the 7th to 10th April 1986" (Magda Strebl, Austria); (4) "Cooperative Preservation Activities of the Research Libraries Group in the Context of the Vienna Conference on the Preservation of Library Materials" (Richard W. McCoy, United States); (5) "Formation of the V. I. Lenin State Library of the USSR Stocks in Interaction with Libraries and Information Institutions of the USSR" (N. S. Kartashov); (6) "Legislative Foundations of the National Libraries Activities in Socialist Countries" (I. Y. Bagrova, USSR); and (7) "National Library of China in Present State and Prospect" (Hu Sha, China). (KM)

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Dangers for the Modern Information Society in the
Computer Age

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Dangers for the Modern Information Society in the Computer Age(1)

Franz Georg Kaltwasser

Human life is influenced by all kinds of information transmitted via the senses. In the same way man, however, has been able to increase his physical strength with modern technology, to extend his vision with optics, to increase his mobility so immensely compared to the limits of his natural means of motion, he has strengthened and expanded his memory and intellectual capacities with his inventions. Having captured his language in letters, he has been able to transmit his messages, his information rapidly and safely from one place to another or to even store them for a long time.

The invention of the printing press meant faster reproduction of the information media and consequently also quicker dissemination of information and in this way it was possible to reach a larger area via books, periodicals and newspapers. Electricity, the telegraph, the telephone, the radio and films accelerated transmitting information considerably. This development has reached a new and hitherto final dimension in electronic data processing which does not so much speed up the transmission of information as accelerate processing it. The invention of electronic data processing increased the possible combination of quite diverse data to a degree undreamt of before. As a result new insights can be gained but it also hastens the danger that knowledge will become unwieldy and consequently require reorganisation. Moreover, there is the danger of new possibilities of manipulation. We are standing at the threshold of a revolution in processing information which might easily make us euphoric, but which also obliges us to be on guard in order that we do not have to cry out like Goethe's "Magician's Apprentice":

" Mylord, great is my distress!

The spirits I have called upon,

I am no longer able to get rid of ",

because we forgot the magic formula how to control them.

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The motto of the IFLA Conference in Tokyo is "New Horizons of Librarianship towards the 21st Century". In my opinion here we should underline the responsibility of the librarian regarding the information entrusted to him and transmitted through him. Although information has always determined the life of man, its importance and its might and its possible misuse are growing rapidly. Thus everybody involved in transmitting information is - I venture to say - to a high degree responsible for his work. This of course applies to the librarian as well.

IFLA is concerned with transmitting information in many ways. Three of its core programmes are aimed at it: Universal Bibliographic Control (UBC), Universal Availability of Publications (UAP) and Transborder Data Flow (TDF).

Each new technology is vulnerable and we all know, that the rate of computer crime is high today attempting to gain access to data illegally or to come into possession of secret data out of greed for profit or out of revenge or vandalism. Occassionally it is a game or an intellectual tickle to hack codes and cause confusion. Another well-known problem is illegal access to personal data and the necessity of protecting such data from misuse in a bureaucracy or by those in power.

Much has been written on this subject and I do not want to elaborate on it here. Without question it is necessary to protect computers and programmes against criminal abuse and to safeguard personal data. Another acute problem resulting from this new technology and requiring a legal framework is copyright. ²⁾

Nonetheless, I would like to put these highly relevant concerns aside for the moment and confine myself to two issues which may not be so prominent as computer crime, copyright fraud or protection of data. I would like to call these issues "Suffocation by over-production of information" and "withholding of information by new technologies". Principally it must be borne in mind that the two do not have to be isolated cases. They may occur simultaneously whereby the withholding of certain data may be concealed by the over-production of other information.

Suffocation by Overproduction of Information

The German author Wolfgang Hildesheimer, now living in Switzerland describes the following grotesque situation: "Change after change. It is not just nearly too late as scientists have quite successfully tried to make us believe, therefore there is no reason to panic as it is - needless to tell you - already far too late and any panic would be futile and unreasonable. Any manager will tell you that, although from an opposite point of view. True enough science is far ahead of us but scientists are lagging far behind and are trying to catch up - of course in vain. I watch them running over hedge and ditch, shouting and gesticulating, carrying butterfly nets and specimen containers as if they were born yesterday which they were not - they were born the day before yesterday." 3)

It is common knowledge that during the lifetime of the present generation more science-related information has been produced than during that of all past generations. There are three reasons for this:

- First there is the ever increasing specialisation and diversification of knowledge by further research. 4)
- Another reason, one that considerably supports the first reason is the growing role of the academe in our lives and the pressure for more literary production and distinguishing oneself associated with it. 5)
- Thirdly there is the very gratifying but telling fact, that not only are more people reading in an increasing number of countries but as a consequence more is also being written.

We neither want to subscribe to Hildesheimer's resignation nor to Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's pessimistic maxim: "The sciences are self-destructive in two ways: the breadth they expand to and the depth they sink into" 6). In trying to prevent this destruction one question crops up again and again: "What is really worth knowing?" I know that there is no single definite answer because we cannot answer the question abstractly but only from the relationship between the information and the man interested or not interested in it. There is no manifest standard for it. The inanswerability

of this question does not constitute a problem as long as the individual is able to select the information relevant to him from the mass of data irrelevant to him. Man is developing amazing skill in this. The Italian semiotician and bestseller author Umberto Eco once illustrated this ability: "In my opinion the professional researcher and intellectual is developing a growing ability to differentiate and choose from the information offered. He is able to invent techniques, kinds of waiving, to select information rapidly. This is what happens to me every morning like a stroke of lightning when I go through my mail. There are many letters about meetings and congresses which used to interest me. Now I throw most of them away because I am not only no longer interested but because my brain can no longer permit itself to deal with it. In fact it almost becomes an instinct, a kind of cunning just as a hunter has learnt how to distinguish the sound of a certain animal from those of other animals. Either we acquire certain techniques of cunning and instinct or we risk being unable to distinguish relevant from irrelevant information." (7)

In spite of all this ability of the intellectual to select there are limits to it. The problem arises ^{at} the point where it becomes difficult to do this selecting within reasonable bounds. Let us give the word to Umberto Eco once more: "One problem is that the wealth of information overwhelms us, that it is no longer manageable. For example: If there were an institution which knew what 55 million citizens had done at every minute, that is no longer manageable. Or: the unbelievable wealth of information in the New York Times turns into poverty; sometimes I only read its table of contents. Sometimes an article in a small provincial newspaper catches my attention more readily." (8)

The selection of needed information from a great mass of information has two aspects:

- Firstly it may be necessary to select what is relevant from equivalent data according to a special point of view. In principle

this seems to continue to be possible even with the growing volume of data although the methods to obtain information get more complicated all the time. The danger of "suffocating" in information occurs when selecting from a wealth of relevant but widely scattered information if these data have not been processed and adapted sufficiently. It goes without saying that the constantly growing mass of information requires more exact retrieval which does not necessarily grow only linearly but more intensely as retrieval must be differentiated in more detail. It is hard to say and cannot be said categorically at what point the effort of retrieving information surpasses that of producing it. It is obvious that for efficient transmission of information processing is gaining in the ratio ^{of} processing and producing information. The theoretic end would be when processing became nearly one hundred percent of the whole overall effort of producing and retrieving information. At the moment we seem to be quite far from this stage.

- Secondly it may be necessary to select qualitatively from a wealth of relevant or seemingly relevant information. This case, i.e. the selection of useful information from irrelevant, superfluous or inferior data poses a far more serious problem. The more information is offered uncritically the graver the problem.

Again there are two different possibilities:

- One is separating useful from useless information. This may prove insurmountable if the individual has to solve it with a burgeoning mass of information. This may lead to "suffocation".
- Another by no means more comforting alternative is the indiscriminate use of retrieved information. This results in a constantly growing number of words, phrases, books and libraries but not in more information. In this case "suffocation" does not actually set in but a standstill covered up by activity.

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We have to face the fact that technical means especially automation at the moment do not solve the issues mentioned above but in fact augment them. This leads to the paradox that the mentioned problems can only be solved with the help of computers on the one hand but does nothing to curb the indiscriminate use of machines on the other. It actually intensifies the problems. Only human intellectual organisation can achieve something here and the machine may be of help with its quickness and its "stupidity" which prevents it from making errors by wrong or incomplete thinking and inattentiveness.

It is strange to observe how the confidence in automation often leads to an uncritical acceptance of the delivered information. The fact that theoretically with a terminal one has access to hundreds of databases all over the world with millions of bibliographic data often makes blind to the "hotch-potch of data indiscriminately delivered from the records stored". (9) Citations printed by the computer are regarded as "sacred cows" which justify any effort in obtaining the respective literature. Let us hope that a more critical attitude will spread.

It is, however, more difficult to find out what kind of information the computer did not deliver. This may occur:

- because the data have not been stored
- or the retrieval system cannot find them
- or the searcher does not exploit all the possibilities of the retrieval system.

Be that as it may, it becomes all the more urgent to recognize that the systematic management of the constantly growing mass of information cannot be achieved automatically by computers but that this still is and will increasingly be a task for man who will use the computer to prevent the "information explosion".

We do not have to go as far as the professor of German philology Wolfgang Frühwald in Munich who claims that following the 19th century Industrial Revolution which "destroyed imagination,

experience and sense of space, the new technological revolution seems to be attacking the category of time" and accelerates the change of experience to such a degree "that it even affects identity awareness" (10). On the basis of this critical observation he draws attention to those "who not only demand a cost-benefit-analysis on the cost of inadequate information but rather on the cost of superfluous information" (11).

Only: If we do not want to get stuck in broad cultural reflections but want to be more specific we must admit our overall helplessness that we do not know a patent solution for the problem of concentrated information that is focussing on the essential.

Since we do not want to be suffocated by an indiscriminate mass of information ways must be found to separate the imitating from the original when transmitting and processing information.

Often enough this is beyond the possibilities of the individual researcher. The critical difficulty arising immediately with such reflections lies in the fact that such a qualitative but objective processing of information would have to employ formally and technically similar mechanisms to those used by a biased transmission of information working as a censor within the framework of a given ideology. Although the methods are the same, the respective purpose is diametrically contradictory:

- Firstly in accordance with Francis Bacon (1561 - 1626), the attorney-general and Lord Keeper of the Seal under King James I. of England (1566 - 1625) - and his many predecessors and imitators - who formulated the doctrine that one must withhold knowledge from others and strive for it oneself "for knowledge itself is power". (12)
- Secondly in accordance with ridding the enormous volume of information of the redundant and obsolete. Heinz Maier-Leibnitz, former president of the German Research Association described this hitherto often unsolved issue: "With the advance of scientific knowledge a vast amount of new knowledge is created daily. Before passing on this knowledge for future use the results must be examined with great care, critically evaluated, analysed along with other data and finally presented in a simplified manner combining new and old and sparing future users wading through the

chaotic heap of original papers. When such abstracts are written by outstanding scholars they often constitute decisive progress in an entire field because this synthesis may lead to new insights even to a new language". (13)

Such a situation in which technology may favour censorship instead of ridding information of ballast naturally demands an extremely responsible approach to this problem and an alert watchfulness against the possible abuse of information.

This brings us to the second aspect of our reflections.

Withholding of information by new technology

We have to get accustomed to the fact that modern information technology creates new possibilities of manipulation, particularly in creating a possible monopoly of information. The exclusive control of knowledge has always been a great factor of power be it of a religious, political or economic nature. Recently Umberto Eco has impressively described the criminal withholding of information by, of all people, a librarian in his bestseller "The Name of the Rose" (14) which was translated into many languages. This detective story is set in an Italian monastery in 1327. The aged and blind monk and librarian Jorge of Burgos has been concealing a manuscript during all his life with utmost cunning, intrigues and crimes. Those who, nevertheless, come in contact with it are poisoned and must die. The manuscript contains the second book of Aristotle's "Poetics" which the whole world considers lost or never written. Our zealot is determined to withhold the knowledge in this book which deals with comedy and therefore laughter for its enlightenment would destroy the "wisdom" of Christianity. When this withholding of information is revealed in the novel it leads to its destruction and the monastery goes up in flames. The story is basically timeless.

Writing is a means of disseminating ideas. But as it is also apt for transmitting opposite ideas it also serves as an instrument for breaking monopolies of power. This was already the case in the age

of manuscripts when texts were busily copied by hand. History, however, teaches us that the invention of the printing press opened new dimensions to the conveyance of ideas. The revolutionary developments of the 16th century, Reformation and Counter-Reformation, would certainly not have taken such a turbulent course without the mechanically reproduced book. The 16th century printed books deal for the most part with such spiritual movements. The importance of the printed book as opinion-maker can be seen from the many efforts to censure, withdraw or even burn books during different centuries. Nonetheless, censure, withdrawal and burning were ultimately futile. Even the most severe kind of censorship, the destruction of books did usually not find all the copies of a book. All the copies of a produced book and the ideas it contains cannot be seized completely. A book is easily hidden, passed on or smuggled.

Besides the book, the periodical, the newspaper there are completely different means of transmitting information by radio and television. Today they are the major opinion-makers. But the idea, they might be the sole source of information and there would be no printed media like book and newspaper evokes a strange intellectual world before our eyes. This reveals how transitory the spoken word in the radio and the pictures and words on television are. Two conclusions can be drawn from this imaginary if unreal situation:

- The volatile words and pictures would create a "structurelessness", a vagueness, an unstable intellectual landscape wholly at the mercy of the requirements of the day and their immediate needs or the craving for power.
- In addition, this would be a memoryless world. Passing on by word of mouth would return as our memory like before the invention of writing.

This imaginary situation shows that the saying that libraries are the world's memory is well-worn but nonetheless correct.

What am I getting at? Up to now the book has been the most faithful and constant preserver and transmitter of ideas. The ideas contained in many books may be relative, but this fact is of fundamental importance.

If one wanders through the stacks of great old libraries one will see miles of shelves filled with contradictory ideas. This is a good thing because it shows man on his way toward truth but not in possession of it.

There is talk that the end of the book age has come with the computer. One prophet of this new doctrine is Monsieur Varloot, who proclaimed it at the IFLA-Congress in Munich in August 1983. (15)

Prophecies of this kind, however, also arose when the radio and especially when television was invented. But this was not the beginning of the end of the book age and it is hardly to be expected particularly not in the field of entertainment and education. The codex, i.e. a number of written or printed pages easy to handle between two covers, is such a practical invention that it has so far not been replaced by a more practical one.

Just the same we should be aware, that there is an area of utmost importance where the end of the book age, at least partly, may actually be in sight and where there should be concern, I think, that abuse and manipulation do creep in. I am referring to the electronic data bases with their specialized scientific data.

More and more often the data to be published are recorded in machine-readable form. Frequently they are still printed out on paper and circulated in the form of the book or the journal, but they are also accessible in electronic stores or on video discs. The more specialized the data the smaller the number of people becomes that are immediately interested in them. It should, however, be borne in mind that especially with scientific and technological data the ratio of those interested is often inverse to their importance for developments in these fields. The smaller the number of interested persons the more one seems inclined to store relevant ideas, facts and bibliographic references electronically and to make them available only via computerised access and no longer publish them for the general reader.

This is exactly where the situation may become critical as those who disseminate these data can have access to undreamt of possibilities of monopolising power. They might abuse it for withholding data, for economic exploitation and manipulation.

Manipulation is easy as the electronic store does not make them completely "visible" to everybody in contrast to the written book which is distributed in many copies. In the extreme this may result in the print-out of deliberately wrong data for certain users. Certain information may be easily withheld from certain users. The latter may apply to entire tests or just simple things like bibliographic information. The "biased" control of the information flow becomes easier than ever. Of course, users of libraries have been kept from certain literature under various religious, ideological, political or moral pretexts. With conventional catalogues this, however, always involved certain complications. It can now be done much more easily in electronic data processing with "invisible catalogues", i.e. catalogues which the computer makes visible to the eye on demand only.

There are many aspects to this problem which apply to on-line-catalogues and especially to the great data bases. The more comprehensive the data banks are the greater the danger. The catalogue records of a number of libraries can be simultaneously manipulated in a centrally run union catalogue. Hitherto it was necessary to conduct political checks in libraries in many places and thus no easy task for those in power. Passive resistance could at last have a retarding effect for a longer period of time. The central administration of data bases could be dangerous in the hands of those in power.

The greatest danger may, however, be the fact that the leading scientific data bases can be built in only one or very few countries due to their cost. This naturally will lead to a monopoly of power through knowledge which can and will be used politically. In January 1985 news went through the press that the USSR had granted an organisation outside the communist realm direct access to Soviet data bases. It was the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis in Laxenburg near Vienna which was given access to

bibliographic data in Soviet data bases about social and political issues. The spokesman for the institute called this event "a kind of information breakthrough" (16). Welcome as this may be this piece of news underlines the problems - how the opened door is welcomed and how easily it can, of course, be closed again. This fact applies to every political system throughout the world and, I want to stress that in order not to be misunderstood.

The political monopoly of power through knowledge in the computer age does not only play an important role between countries and blocs of countries but, of course, within a country as well. Bruce W. Sanford, for example, energetically warns of the danger of an informationless age through bureaucratic control and censorship. He writes: "I am inclined to divide government officials into those who believe that information fuels a democracy and those who believe information is a combustible, dangerous substance that ought to be contained, curtailed, and controlled like a deadly poison." (17) This temptation for those in power and their bureaucrats is by no means new but the computer provides them with technical means that Machiavelli could not even dream of.

But computer-aided data bases cannot only be employed politically, they can also be used commercially to exploit and dominate poor countries or cut them off altogether by means of high cost from that information which may be vital for them.

We know that developing countries today are in a position to teach their people to read and write but for want of paper are not able to produce enough books for these skills to have an impact; if we reflect that those countries certainly lack the money to buy sufficient books - in English or French, of course, and not in their own languages - then we may appreciate how quickly those countries can be cut off from modern expensive technological and scientific information. (18)

But this is not merely a problem of developing countries. Even highly developed countries which do not establish their own scientific data bases may be cut off overnight from vital information by

those who possess it. This does not apply to the wealth of knowledge recorded in books and periodicals but to the latest so to speak to the top information. European science and research is already dependent on US administrators of knowledge in certain fields to an extent which was undreamt of until recently.

Conclusion:

Information has become a decisive factor in today's world as never before in the history of mankind. It is of utmost sensitivity and is endangered. Librarians as the classic transmitters of information are called upon to safeguard the freedom of information and to make the public aware of possible dangers. They will have to continue to advocate and promote reliable and not indestructible book but in addition will have to watch all developments in the field of information critically and closely; "for knowledge itself is power" and the power of knowledge takes on ever greater dimensions in this information age (19).

Libraries should fight for their task to make information accessible to man unhindered and freely (20).

Abstract

The possibilities of processing and transmitting information grow with electronic data processing. There is, however also the danger of new method of manipulation. The paper specially deals with the problems of "suffocation by the overproduction of information" and "withholding of information by new technologies." Both may manifest themselves simultaneously, the withholding of certain information being concealed by the overproduction of other. The aim of this paper is to arouse awareness for this problem in order to counteract these new damages better.

Notes:

1. This lecture is an expanded and modified version of my paper "Vigilandum esse in vita. Gefahren für die moderne Informationsgesellschaft" in the Festschrift for C. Reedijk, 1986.
2. Cf. e.g. August Bequal: Law and Computer Security: The American Experience. IFLA-Conference Chicago 1985. Paper Nr. 164-MAN-1-E.
3. Wolfgang Hildesheimer: Mitteilungen an Max über den Stand der Dinge und anderes. Frankfurt a. Main 1983, p. 52.
4. David Daiches describes this phenomenon in the following words:
"There was a time in the history of the Western world when an educated man could be considered to have mastered virtually all the knowledge available in his culture. This was to an extent true in the Middle Ages. But with the explosion of knowledge in the Renaissance and after, it became increasingly difficult for any individual to be master of all available knowledge; as the sum of knowledge increased the proportion of it available to the individual became smaller, and we are faced with the paradox that increase of potential knowledge means increase of individual ignorance, if by increase of ignorance we mean knowledge of a progressively smaller proportion of what is known. Every new discovery in, say, astrophysics makes every one of us who is not an astrophysicist that much more ignorant. Ignorance therefore inevitably proliferates as knowledge advances. Boundaries close in as the material within each area becomes more abundant and complicated. "That is not my field" becomes the cry of the scholar faced with something on the other side of the fence, as for example the classical scholar takes no responsibility for knowledge of what happened after the emergence of Alexander the Great."
David Daiches: The Functions of Research in the Humanities.
In: The Future of Research. Guildford 1982, p. 178/179.

5. Nigel Cross succinctly characterizes this in his essay on "The economics of learned journals" in "Times Literary Supplement" of 23rd of November 1984 on page 1348: "It is probably fair to say that the majority of journals, old and new, exist to satisfy the needs of writers rather than readers. The same used to be true of academic monographs, though recent cuts in library spending have helped to reduce that amount of dross. Ironically, the dross finds its way into the library anyway - as the unpublishable book is broken up into publishable articles. The process seems unstoppable, for the scholarly community needs journals; hierarchies are built around them, membership of the editorial board can advance a career even more rapidly than it advances knowledge."
6. Johann Wolfgang v. Goethe: Werke. Vol. XII. 9th ed. (of the "Hamburger Ausgabe"). München 1981, p. 419: Maximen und Reflexionen 402. First published in: Hefte zur Morphologie. I/4. 1822.
7. Galileo, Luther und die totale Information. Ein Gespräch mit dem italienischen Semiotiker und Romancier Umberto Eco. In: Süddeutsche Zeitung. No. 269. 22. Nov. 1985, p. 45.
8. cf note 7
9. "Das tatenlose, überinformierte Bewußtsein, das nicht mehr in der Lage ist, Wunsch, Idee, Erinnerung zu produzieren, erlebt stattdessen eine (sonst nur dem Wahnsinn bekannte) Gleichzeitigkeit des Unvereinbaren und denkt einen wahllos aus den Beständen zugespielten Datensalat": Botho Strauß in "Paare, Passanten", München 1981, S. 195/196.
10. Wolfgang Frühwald: Information oder Wissen. Zur Entwicklung der Geisteswissenschaften und ihrer Literaturversorgung in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland. In: Literaturversorgung in den Geisteswissenschaften. Wiesbaden 1986, p. 13.

11. loco citato p. 13.
12. Francis Bacon: Meditationis sacrae. English translation of the Latin original. 1598.
13. Heinz Maier-Leibnitz: Monographien - Handbücher - Lehrbücher. Ein noch (?) nicht verwirklichter Vorschlag. In: Heinz Maier-Leibnitz: Zwischen Wissenschaft und Politik. Ausgewählte Reden und Aufsätze 1974 - 1979. Boppard 1979. p. 65 - 69.
14. Umberto Eco: Il nome della rosa. Milano 1980.
15. Denis Varloot: Du puits au robinet. In: Bulletin des Bibliothèques de France. Paris 28 (1983), p. 581 - 589.
16. Süddeutsche Zeitung. 22.01.1985, p. 8.
17. Bruce W. Sanford: The Information-less Age. In: Special Libraries. 74 (1983), p. 319.
18. Mwai Kibaki: Speech delivered during the Official Opening of the 50th IFLA General Conference, Nairobi, Kenya, 20. August 1984, and Henry Chakave: Reading in Africa - Some Obstacles. In: IFLA Journal 10.(1984) p. 345 - 356.
19. As early as 1967 Umberto Eco wrote: "Not long ago it was sufficient to control the army and the police in order to conquer political power in a country. Today it happens only in under-developed countries that fascist generals use tanks for a coup d'etat. When a certain phase of industrialisation is reached the scene changes completely - the day after Khrustchev's fall the executive directors of "Prawda", "Iz vestija" and the radio stations were replaced, in the army everything was quiet. Today those in

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charge of communications are in charge of a country." Lecture at the Congress "Vision 67" of the International Center for Communication, Art and Sciences, New York, October 1967. Published under the title "Für eine semiologische Guerilla" in: Umberto Eco: Über Gott und die Welt, München 1985, p. 46.

20. An appeal for a dialogue between authors, publishers, booksellers, librarians, government institutions and readers concerning the useful application of electronic data processing and its control was recently made by a group of European publishers and librarians under the title "The Impact of Electronic Technology. A Joint Statement of European Librarians and Publishers", 1984. This statement was printed in many national and international periodicals, e.g. the IFLA Journal 10 (1984), p. 418 - 421.

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Functions and Objectives of the National Libraries
in the Developing Countries

By

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Functions and Objectives of the National Libraries in the Developing Countries.

Nowadays this is a high priority issue, not only because the emergency in the whole world - and particularly in the developing countries - of both newly created nations and outstanding, highly trained scientists, but also because the ancient concept of a vegetative material growing, generally exogenous, is being increasingly substituted by the idea of both an entirely, endogenous development of life, and the total social accomplishments. This latter assertion, of course, neither means to fail to acknowledge the material development as the primary source of resources for the investment on, and the implementation of, projects other than mentioned above, nor does it suppose a turndown to universal experiences.

This subject-matter definition presuppose a wide range of reflections on the complexity and, yet within this definition, the coherence which every sector included in the development plans and perspectives should have. It would not be possible within such a limited paper to pinpoint the basic elements of development, even though is taken for granted the fact that everything related to the scientific and technological information has played and, progressively, will play a decisive role, to a great extent, in every development prediction or forecast.

History accounts for the fact that the great social stages thru which mankind have passed and are passing by, have always been backed by the scientific and technological findings and inven-



tions. Yet in the cases where a highly expensive technology has been introduced, it has not resulted in an actual assimilation of its advantages and benefits, as it should have been, or even in the raising of new development perspectives, due to the lack of skilled, highly trained staff in the receiving country to exploit this technology to its full extent. Even though it should be stressed, it is unnecessary to explain why the so-called development "islands" in the developing countries does not have either multiplying or diversifying effects on science, technology and culture, unless they get together into a tactic and strategy based on a right and adequate progress towards their needs—namely, endogenous—in their willingness and objectives.

Therefore, we must state that the availability of up-to-date information and documentation is a sine qua non requisite to the success and the harmonious development of the national and the universal experience in a given country.

By stating that, we consider that we could be referring to the case-objectives, functions, principles of action—of the Cuban experience because, obviously, the rest of the colleagues invited will be exposing other issues and profiles on the library development on other areas and societies from other corners of the world.

1.—At the time the Revolution seized power (1959) there was neither any library network duly organized nor supplied with the necessary resources for their total updating.



Moreover, those libraries were characterized rather by their ancient, however insufficiently organized funds (sometimes in a non-technical fashion) by their space and access limitations and, similarly, by their poor collections placed in scattered locations. The José Martí National Library had barely started organizing itself at that time, when it held in its files about 250,000 titles or bibliographical units, mostly Cubans.

The library policy sought to apply immediately one overall principle, accordingly: the building up of almost all the institutional libraries into the National Library, also the incorporation into the National Library of the private libraries left behind by all those who decided to leave the country, and the provision of official allocations for the acquisition of up-to-date documentation (books, journals, reviews). In so doing, we went on with the purchasing of valuable private libraries, making substantial payments for their acquisition. This is how, by purchasing private collections, the library has incorporated throughout the years not less than 75,000 specialized titles, including some, even today, rare and valuable books, particularly those related to Africa and Latin America. Consequently, this incorporating policy made the holdings to mount to a little more than twice as much as compared to the original holdings, nowadays this figure is as high as 1,780,000 in our catalogues.

Which advantages purported that policy? First, an accessibility to a wealth, up to that moment dispersed and unorganized to a certain extent, inside a magnificent city central building. Se-



cond, a subsequent promotion of a more active circulation of all the bibliographic funds available.

2.- As a matter of fact, we are likely to be led to other considerations; the library funds of a country are to be measured neither by their rareness nor by the amount expressed only in mere figures, but by its level of circulation, be it within the very institution, be it by lending, or by its diffusion through modern technological proceedings. However if we add to this that in 1961 the Alphabetization Campaign was carried out resulting in an almost total wiping out of illiteracy from our country (less a 4% due to overage factors and other causes) and yet this population, formerly illiterate, kept on studying through the regular elemental school up to the intermediate or secondary level, then the demands on circulation, far from coming up only to a simple increase, came about, however, as a real boom.

Hence several consequences derived from; in the first place, the meeting of the needs produced by the raising level of science and culture, in fact, a challenge of the material and spiritual development promoted by the Revolution and accepted by the National Library under the direction of Dr. Maria Teresa Freyre de Andrade, its first director in the revolutionary administration, whose clever and solution-oriented direction led to the diversification and to the intensification of the services. In the second place the José Martí National Library set itself up as an open institution for all kinds of users from sixteen years of age up (high school students); excluding the users of its Juvenile Room (from five up



to sixteen years) and its Lending Room for adults who on account of their work or profession and/or their cultural level, needed of the take-home reading option. In countries like Cuba, a National Library should be totally open, at least, until a powerful and diversified library network could be developed. In the third place, the enlargement of working hours from 08:00 to 23:00 (Monday to Friday); from 08:00 to 19:00 (Saturdays) and from 08:00 to 13:00 (Sundays).

Putting the library at the disposal of scholars and experts who maintain a reduced working time would be as to contradict the development in its deepest demographic roots.

3-. The Cuban editorial and publishing boom laid the groundwork for the development of an all-in exchange policy which along with the state allocations contributed to enrich and to update considerably the bibliography, given the preference for its incorporation to the files. Thus, an evident balance has been deduced between the ancient funds -which have not ceased to be incorporated because overall cultural development has so required- and the modern funds (namely, national through legal deposit) and foreign funds.

Under no circumstance are we to play down the importance of the national collection, which should be part and parcel of every National Library, if we are to point out that the universal collection has nowadays an indubitable importance, particularly those materials relating to Latin America and to the generally so-called "Third World" and those on scientific and technological advance. We could, by the way, state that this stage of balance, as we have so



termed, is in its full development besides being supported by an undoubtedly important and constant international exchange.

4.- All the skilled labor force graduated from library schools, both in Cuba and abroad, gave an impetus to the training of skill-acquired-through-practice staff who continued their intermediate and higher studies afterwards (this latter at the Faculty of Information and Bibliothecology of the Havana University or elsewhere). In this sense our lack of cadres was not any too different from that of other developing countries. Hence the reason the José Martí National Library -where the build up of higher qualification and university graduates staff, as well as the skill-acquired-through-practice, profession-oriented young personnel is greater- abided by this simple principle: Those best qualified would train through the everyday praxis those with lower qualification. This policy transformed the José Martí National Library into an excellent school where theory and practice marched together, hand in hand, since, besides serving its own staff, contributed to the urgent training of other libraries' staff (libraries in institutions of different territorial ranks in creation process).

Naturally, this function has nowadays changed, nevertheless the National Library continues as a professional in-training workground for advanced students, offering courses and short courses on very specific subjects, courses for skill-acquired-through-practice personnel, inasmuch as the number of libraries grows much faster than the number of graduates. We consider that our National Library, indeed, should always contribute to the staff professional training, taking into account the particular condition of every stage.



This library is currently contributing to the establishment of standards (which are a legal obligation) to achieve the national unification of the whole system.

5.-Should we take into account this abstract and the available statistics, it becomes stressed that the National Libraries must direct their service policy, as well as their compilation policy, in keeping with the developmental stages. The time is approaching when we will be confronting certain problems that an open universal library is not likely to solve outside the general development.

As a matter of fact, we are actively working, very hard, on the enlargement of public libraries (in the provinces, in the municipalities, in the factories, etc.) and on the bases of the National System of Information. Moreover, the Central Science and Technological Library, which is intended to cover all the subject matters other than social sciences and medicine, is about to be inaugurated. If as reckoned, this library will be rendering a service for professors, researchers, scholars, specialists and cadres, as well as for the more advanced university students in the pursue of a higher university degree as Master, Candidate, Doctor, etc., then as it can be foreseen, there will be a great unsatisfied demand of reading on the part of the high school students and of the university undergraduates students, whose demands will have to be met by the National Library. This will bring on a second stage for the National Library which will be attending this unsatisfied sector of young students besides stressing on both the services and the re-compilation of Cuban documents (the legal deposit is already exis-



ting), culture and humanities and, of course, the universal collection.

The country's agricultural and industrial development, together with its perspectives suggests this great division of functions and objectives. Likewise, this labor division shall need from the intensified utilization of the lattermost technological means.

6.-Currently the National Library is taking the first steps towards the application of computation on some specific issues of informative diffusion, and all along this path we will keep on working progressively.

In the present conditions the using of manual and conventional means might still render satisfactory results, without losing sight of the increasing use of computation and the other means: (Microcard equipments in setting up process, microfilms, offset publications, and others already in preparation).

In small countries the diffusion through the said means implies, undoubtedly, a better and easier utilization of the resources available as long as experience accompanied with the right level of optimization of the technology applied be progressively acquired, since not all of these means have neither equal possibilities nor the same application field.

Yet on this aspect of diffusion, the National Library publishes by its own means the bimonthly journal "Bibliografía Cubana", still by other means, publishes also, "Índice General de Publicaciones Periódicas Cubanas" (General Index of Cuban Periodicals) -an annual recopilation of Cuban journal articles on social sciences and



humanities -;personalities or subject matter bibliographies;the Bibliografía Cubana Retrospectiva,covering the years when the national editorial output information was not recorded; also the Revista de la Biblioteca Nacional José Martí(a journal on socio-historical research published every four months);likewise it publishes several issues of Boletín de Información de la Cultura on the main cultural fields (theater,dance,music,general problems, etc.) Furthermore,the library prepares a very specialized bibliography whether by request of any government institution or by request of any specialist,causing to create a fund that can be easily updated in any future occasion.

All those materials,depending on the conditions of the international exchange,are distributed to foreign libraries and institutions and,of course,among those of the country.

7.-Finally,the José Martí National Library also makes great exhibitions based on subject matters as well as on countries,therefore, the average figure of users,which may range from 700 to 1000 daily, are equally informed on the bibliographic funds to be found on the institution.

8.- Conclusions

I) The National Library in every country should function as the starting up centre for the development of the library network at other levels and for other institutions too.

II)Besides the national collection,they should keep a universal fund so as to be able to render a more general service.

III)The National Libraries should be as open as possible in order to march harmoniously with the general development in every way



needed and in every way possible so that they might adapt and adjust their functions and objectives to the new development conditions.

IV) They should contribute to the bibliographic professional strengthening in the country, taking advantage of the great experience accumulated through the substantial volume of funds, and amount of services rendered, and they might, should the case be, feel and analyze the improvements required in every stage.

V) They should disseminate, according to the requirements of the sectorial or branch development conditions, the adequate information and documentation.

VI) The growing of a National Library ought to have a limit that is to be established by three ways: a) The establishment of institutions with specialized funds, all of which requires of a clear-cut depository policy at a national level; b) because of the changes brought by the national development and ; c) because of the document's different quality and durability, taking into account the time of storage of the documents collected on various subject matters.

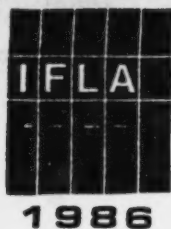
VII) The National Libraries, on account of the legal depository tasks that they perform, should keep their function as compilation centre of the country's bibliography, even though other special bibliographic work to be made in certain stages still to come, will not be likely to be compiled in the future.

VIII) The National Library will stress its continuous attention on the new organizational needs and the awareness of what kind of materials are specially, immediately, and mostly useful according to



the stage of development.

Havana, March 20th. 1986.



IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE, TOKYO

Division: General Research Libraries

Section:

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Preservation of Library Materials.

A Report on the Vienna International Conference
from the 7th to 10th April 1986

by

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The International Conference on the Preservation of Library Materials took place in Vienna from the 7th to the 10th of April 1986. More than 120 directors of national libraries and experts on restoration and conservation of library materials from 45 countries, from Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia and North and South America participated.

The conference was sponsored by the Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL) in cooperation with the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and the UNESCO. The meeting was substantially supported by the Council on Library Resources, Inc., Washington, D.C. and by the Republic of Austria.

For years, librarians in the whole world have viewed with concern the rapid spread of damage to library materials. A conference was planned to discuss existing problems, to learn about measures developed in other countries, and to exchange experiences. As early as 1982, my predecessor in office, the late Director General of the National Library of Austria, Dr. Joseph Zeßner-Spitzenberg, had agreed to be the host of such an international meeting. An international organizing committee was installed under the chairmanship of William J. Welsh, Deputy Director of the Library of Congress and Chairman of the CDNL. John Aarons, Jamaica; Helmut Bansa, Federal Republic of Germany; Marie Louise Bossuat, France; N.S. Kartashov, USSR; Niels Mark, Denmark; Peter G. Sparks, USA; D.E.K. Wijasuriva, Malaysia; Otto Wächter, Austria; Alec Wilson, Great Britain; Adam Wysocki, IFLA; A. Abid, UNESCO were members of the organizing committee. Local organization was in care of the National Library of Austria.

The aim of this conference was not only to address the librarians, who, worldwide, are responsible for the preservation of the cultural heritage in libraries, but also to

possibly attract the attention of the countries' governments so that they attribute the necessary importance to the problem and financially enable libraries to take the necessary measures. Therefore, the diplomatic missions accredited in Vienna were invited to the conference opening. Fortunately, numerous missions did accept the invitation. The Austrian television and television companies from the USA took interest in the problem, and the Austrian press as well as the press of the Federal Republic of Germany (possibly that of other countries too) reported in detail on the conference and on the measures concerning the preservation of library materials.

It was the aim of the conference

1. to point out the dimensions of the problem and the present efforts in preservation,
2. to make available practice-orientated information on treatment, storage, preservation and conservation of library materials,
3. to point out the necessity and possibilities of organizing a preservation programme.

In more than 40 papers, problems were discussed concerning: the basis of a worldwide conservation policy, cooperation in preservation of resources, new technologies for the preservation of library materials etc. The full text of the papers will be published by SAUR KG, Munich.

There was consternation about the extent of actual damage. From some countries 25% of the library resources were described as being seriously damaged. Damage extends to complete research collections whose resources consist in editions dating from the middle of the last century onward (think of the appearance of new disciplines like social sciences). Only in a few countries the costs of restoration and conservation of such book material have been calculated.

Special attention was given to the preservation of non-book-material and to the problems connected with the filing of such materials in tropical regions. Because most of the countries concerned are financially weak, they should especially be provided with information on latest scientific results and with practicable information and assistance.

Concerning the treatment of library materials concrete principles and guidelines were given by several speakers:

- Greatest attention must be given to the handling of library materials by user and library staff. The didactically excellently arranged slide show of the Library of Congress was generally appreciated. Everything, from taking the volume from the shelf, its handling when photocopying to putting it back again, must be done carefully. "Xerox corpses" serve as warning examples of carelessness in handling books when photocopying.
- Special guidelines and their tolerance, derived from experimental results, were given for temperature and relative humidity of paper volumes, of photographic material, and specially of colour photographic materials.
(Confer to supplement 1).
- It was especially recommended against attack by insect pests: to keep away all sorts of plants from library buildings and not to allow plants in the immediate surroundings, especially not climbers on the brickwork. Control of insects is not to be done by sprays because of oily residues which remain in the paper and cause further damage.
- The conservation of audio-visual and magnetically recorded data media, which, in most cases, is only possible by playback, is difficult because of the equipment which often rapidly becomes outdated, so that the continuity of use is no longer guaranteed. In this context attention must be paid to the fact that, especially in non-industrialized countries with high illiteracy, because of almost exclusively oral tradition tapes are of basic importance for maintenance and filing the countries' history (family history) and language.

- The problem of mass process paper deacidification met with great interest. From about the middle of the last century onward the demand for raw material for paper production could no longer be met with waste textiles. Groundwood paper came into use. In order to bleach the brownish paper acids were used - to the effect that paper becomes brown later, creases and splinters. The USA, Canada, France, Austria and Great Britain have sought for means to overcome or to prevent this.
- The Library of Congress deacidifies with the diethyl zinc process in large holders. They hope to deacidify 500,000 volumes every year, calculating costs of \$ 2,- per volume.
- Canada has developed a Wei T'o waterfree system, at present deacidifies 40,000 volumes every year and hopes for an increase up to 300,000 volumes yearly at costs of Can \$ 3.50 to 4.50 per volume.
- France is hoping to develop a successful system by June 1986.
- The British Library is at present experimenting on a system to simultaneously deacidify and strengthen the paper.
- The National Library of Austria has developed a system to simultaneously deacidify and strengthen the paper by using ethylenoxide gas and successfully tested it especially on bound volumes of periodicals: The periodicals are impregnated with cellulose and polyvinylacetate in a vacuum chamber, frozen at -30° to -40° centigrade and freeze-dried for two to three days. Moreover, a method was developed to remove groundwood.
- The Deutsche Bücherei in Leipzig has refined and perfected the method of splitting paper and is trying to mechanize this method.
- At the conference interest was also given to the use of microforms, magnetically recorded data media and optical disks. Filming programmes are being developed in numerous countries, either officially or on a private commercial basis.

For all these measures mentioned above the development of comprehensive programmes was called for. As the most efficient region for getting them through the respective state is the obvious choice. But the programmes should also take effect across borders, internationally, they should also be of benefit to

developing countries. Here one has to consider that international standards should be developed. Finally, emergency plans were demanded for every library, and exemplary plans, which had already been developed, were presented: for all sorts of inrush of water, for fire etc. But it is just with respect to flood disasters that international cooperation in Europe has proved successful (Florence).

On the issue "cooperation" the partner "publisher" asked leave to speak. By editing facsimile copies and microfilm or microfiche editions of library materials publishers will become a new sort of partner for libraries.

The demand for the use of acid-free paper by the book and newspaper industry was the starting point in this context, too. It must be mentioned that a change in thinking can be observed with the paper industry and that Austria, for example, exports acid-free paper for book production into other countries.

Finally, better training in preservation and conservation for librarians and well trained restorators were demanded.

The most important results of the conference were

- the presentation of the Draft Recommendations (see supplement 2)
- the declaration on "Preservation and Conservation" concerning the IFLA Core Programme
- the establishment of one international and two regional centres in the Library of Congress and the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris and the Deutsche Bücherei in Leipzig respectively. They are mainly responsible for the collection and documentation of the relevant literature.

It is encouraging that especially in greater libraries increasing efforts were taken even while the preparations for the Conference were still going on. The Library of Congress, for example, has begun to edit "Newsletters for Preservation

and Conservation", which promise to become a valuable support for the international exchange of experience.

Some libraries, for example in Australia and Austria, have already begun to make available in data banks or conventional specialized bibliographies national or regional literature on the subject of preservation and conservation.

Moreover, experts on restoration and conservation of library materials are making efforts to establish closer contacts on an international scale to discuss their experiences with other experts.

I think it is important to discuss real problems and mistakes in such circles in order to learn from them. The cultural heritage we have to preserve in libraries is much too valuable so that we cannot afford to make the same mistake several times. The fact that invitations to training courses on restoration are addressed to a greater extent than before to participants from several countries, can be regarded as another example of setting-out.

Conscious of the responsibility for the library materials archived worldwide, we should now make available our developments to everybody openly and without restriction.

Within the limits of this short account it is of course impossible to point out all reports, stimulations and information of the Vienna Conference. Nevertheless I think that the members of the conference will agree with me that there were outstanding contributions to an eminently important problem. It should also be mentioned that subsequent to the CPLM-Conference a joint meeting of the IFLA Section on Library Schools and other Training Aspects, the FID Education and Training Committee, the ICA (International Council on Archives) Committee of Professional Training (CPT), and the Committee of Conservation and Preservation (CCP) took place at the National Library of Austria from the

11th to the 13th of April 1986 under the chairmanship of Josephine R. FANG, Boston, USA and Edith FISCHER, Vienna, Austria, which was attended by about 60 experts from all continents. It was the main aim of this Post-Conference-Seminar to emphasize the importance of preservation and conservation of different materials already during the training and, later on, during the advanced training of the three professional groups of librarians, documentators and archivists, who are charged with the task of passing on the media of information.

1. Temperature and relative humidity should be maintained at the lowest practicable level and as constant as possible. Daily fluctuations of more than 4°C must be avoided.
2. An acceptable relative humidity falls in the range of 20% - 50% but preferably below 40% and never over 60%. However, 30% - 35% appears optimum, although one speaker said that books are liable to damage below 35% relative humidity. And changes of more than 5% should be avoided in moving books to a different environment.
3. Photographic materials are best stored at 15° - 25° C but never above 30°C, and 20°C is preferable. Several libraries use cold storage facilities below 0°C for color film.
4. People have a great tolerance for a low relative humidity and little tolerance for low temperatures, but books have a great tolerance for low temperatures and little tolerance for low relative humidity. A good compromise for people, books and phonorecords is 18°C and 40% relative humidity.
5. Fungus growth is a hazard above 22°C and 65% relative humidity.
6. Color photographs may fade even in the absence of light if the storage temperature is high.
7. The most common pests in libraries are insects, rodents and mold, and the worst insects are cockroaches, silverfish, beetles and booklice. Preventive measures include avoidance of interior fountains and plantings of shrubs or flowers, the fixing of exterior lights on supports away from rather than on library buildings, elimination of ivy and other vines from structures, and keeping leaves, twigs and other debris away from foundations.
8. Insecticidal fogs or aerosols should never be used in collections because they leave an oily residue.
9. Magnetic tapes may be damaged by magnetic fields generated by loud speakers, earphones, tape recorders, magnetic doorlocks, electrical transformers, etc.
10. Audio-visual and magnetically recorded data are only accessible through playback equipment. Maintaining such machines is essential but will become increasingly difficult as manufactures discontinue models and no longer provide spare parts.

Draft Recommendations

The International Conference on the Preservation of Library Materials held in Vienna from 7-10 April 1986:

1. Having been made aware of the enormous scale of the needs for urgent conservation measures to protect library materials - a need confirmed by the participants of the Conference, including those from the developing countries;
2. Having noted the views expressed by the representatives of national libraries and other professional groups that the needs for preservation and conservation of library materials - both retrospective and prospective - can only be solved through a combination of national and international efforts;
3. Having reviewed the IFLA International Programme for Preservation and Conservation (PAC), its objectives, orientation and plan of action;
4. Recalling the successful results of the ongoing IFLA International Programmes on Universal Bibliographic Control (UBC), Universal Availability of Publications (UAP) and International MARC (IMP);
5. Endorses the steps already taken by IFLA to establish its International Programme on Preservation and Conservation;
6. Welcomes the initiatives of the Library of Congress (USA), the Bibliothèque Nationale (France) and the Deutsche Bücherei (German Democratic Republic) in establishing an international and two regional centres for preservation and conservation in the framework of the Core Programme;
7. Proposes that IFLA, as a means to mobilizing further interest and support, consider designating, as soon as possible, an IFLA Year on Preservation and Conservation, and
8. Recommends that the international library community bring to the attention of the broad public in every country the importance and urgency of preserving library materials which form an essential part of the intellectual heritage of all nations - and stress the irreversible consequences for future generations of continued failure to undertake massive preservation and conservation measures;

9. Recommends that IFLA encourage member associations:
 - a) to urge national policy-making bodies to establish guiding principles for formulating and implementing national programmes for preservation and conservation of library materials;
 - b) in due course to appeal to governments for the supplementary funds certainly required to implement well-conceived national preservation programmes;
10. Invites member associations of IFLA to play an active role in persuading appropriate institutions to host additional regional centres in other parts of the world;
11. Further recommends that IFLA contribute to the harmonization of international action in this field by working out internationally applicable guidelines, by issuing directories of available facilities and other required publications and by organizing training courses, pilot projects and other activities intended to improve the preservation and conservation of library materials;
12. Urges the competent international intergovernmental organizations
 - a) to increase the attention given in their programmes to promoting the undertaking of preservation and conservation measures by publishers, printers and paper manufacturers, as well as by librarians, archivists and other information personnel, and
 - b) to augment their financial support for activities leading to improved knowledge of the problems involved in preservation and conservation and to the solutions of both retrospective and prospective needs in this field;
13. Recommends that IFLA continue its efforts to associate other competent non-governmental organizations with its endeavour to establish an effective international programme in preservation and conservation.



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Cooperative Preservation Activities of
The Research Libraries Group

In the Context of the Vienna Conference
on the Preservation of Library Materials

by

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Cooperative Preservation Activities of The Research Libraries Group

In the Context of the Vienna Conference on the Preservation of Library Materials

THE VIENNA CONFERENCE. The Conference on the Preservation of Library Materials¹ in the Spring of this year brought together National Librarians and preservation experts from a very great part of the world.

It provided in its meetings and discussion sessions a lively "handbook" covering the preservation problem, the techniques and tools of preservation and conservation, and the ideas, experiments and experiences through which each country could learn from the others. The broad coverage of technical topics provided the overview which policy makers will need when planning or accelerating preservation activities in their home countries.

The conference summary by Rutherford Rogers,² to be published among the conference papers, provides insight into the "handbook" role of the conference and into the common themes found in its over forty papers. The record of the conference will serve as a source of ideas and stimulation for national libraries and other organizations which must address the preservation problem. In my judgment, however, those who read the papers will not in that process learn of the importance of the Vienna meeting.

CHALLENGE AND COMMITMENT. The lasting and meaningful results of the Vienna conference are most likely to come from those who took home a new and clearer view of the preservation problem and its complexity, and from those who took home with them a commitment to cooperative solutions.

National librarians were challenged to preserve the very "fruits of civilization and the record of mankind." They were challenged: to commit themselves and their institutions to preserving or coordinating preservation of their own countries' imprints; to assisting other nations which cannot do that task alone; and to preserving or making available for preservation the imprints of other countries which do not own the same material.³

It was the occasion to achieve a common understanding of an uncommon threat and the occasion to mark its formal recognition by the community of national libraries. And it was the occasion to establish the basis for linkage among the many independent preservation efforts and to offer support and encouragement to the IFLA Core Program. The conference built an important and prestigious platform on which cooperative international preservation efforts will find support.

CONTEXT. The discussions were grouped by Rogers into four broad areas: storage and handling; repair and deacidification; disaster preparation and response; and text conversion. The first two (and generally the third) are focused on preserving material in its original format, while the last involves creating a surrogate, typically on microfilm. It is in this latter category that the Research Libraries Group (RLG) reported on its experience in planning and managing a coordinated and cooperative program of preservation microfilming.

When considering the title of the paper I was asked to present here at IFLA, I wondered if I might be faced with two distinct and separate assignments: to report on the conference, and to present the preservation experience of my own organization. In advance of the Vienna conference I wondered whether a bridge might exist between the two. A clear answer emerged; among the most important results of the Vienna meeting was the extraordinarily persuasive case it provided that preservation on an international scale is a problem which can only be effectively addressed with a broadly based cooperative effort. It was this conclusion in a narrower national context which had motivated RLG in its preservation program.

Two conference speakers familiar with RLG's work (Welsh from the US⁴ and Wilson from the UK⁵) suggested that program or aspects of it for international extension. For RLG's part, we hoped that our experience with a cooperative program, albeit on a modest scale, might contribute ideas and insights as plans move forward toward international cooperation. And we hoped that the products of our efforts would contribute to the records and materials which must eventually be shared for mutual benefit if there is to be an effective solution to the world-wide preservation problem.

COOPERATIVE PRESERVATION MICROFILMING. The Research Libraries Group (RLG)) is a partnership of thirty-six major universities and research institutions in the United States. From the organization's beginnings in 1974, its principal programs have addressed four major activities: cooperative collection management and development, enhanced resource sharing among institutions, the development of bibliographic control and technical resources to support information access, and cooperative preservation. In addition RLG supports several special interest and scholarly information programs and

operates the computer network RLIN, the Research Libraries Information Network. RLIN differs from other networks in part because of features designed to support the partnership's programs including cooperative preservation.

It was the experience of RLG institutions that no single library could manage or afford the costs of meeting even its own internal preservation needs let alone contribute significantly to the resolution of the collective program. They joined together, therefore, to plan and design a cooperative approach with shared responsibilities for preservation appropriately related to the collection strengths of participating institutions. On financial measures alone there was great incentive to work within a coherent, cooperative approach which would avoid duplicate efforts in preservation filming.

The design included: selection of an important and achievable initial goal, establishing and documenting the standards by which the work would proceed, identifying a procedure for selecting the collections and the participants whose work would contribute most effectively, and raising the funds needed for the ambitious undertaking.

The initial cooperative filming work has concentrated on endangered resources published in or about the United States for the period which contributed the worst paper deterioration, about 1870 through 1920. A proposal to preserve Chinese language materials published between 1880 and 1949 is now pending. At present the program uses microfilm techniques, while continuing to watch the development of new technologies. Unfortunately, the new technologies do not address the most costly parts of the preservation process, the hours of personnel time involved.

The procedures of the program are briefly as follows:

1. SELECTION. The selection process involves a number of steps, a clear definition of the target area (principally by subject and date), the identification of badly deteriorated material within the target, careful curatorial review by subject specialists often involving consultation with other scholars within or outside of the institution and, finally, the decision to proceed. Guidelines must vary depending on subject and the anticipated scholarly use of the items under consideration. The selection of subject areas for preservation and the identification of appropriate participants benefits from the partnership's work in Collection Management and Development where the RLG Conspectus provides collection strength information.
2. HANDLING AND PROCESSING. For any particular title, one must determine whether it has already been filmed either commercially or by another institution. Here the problem includes the time and cost of searching a number of bibliographic reference sources. For large volume sets or serial runs it is an extremely important task. Other elements also add significantly to handling costs: collation to assure completeness, location elsewhere of missing pages, disbinding where necessary, preparation of bibliographic "targets" to be filmed, and possible special handling requirements. RLG's guidelines in these matters are adapted from those in use at the Library of Congress.
3. STANDARDS. Quality control and archival standards for filming are an important ingredient in the program essential to the success of the project and to providing appropriate assurances to funding agencies. RLG has prepared guidelines for: Pre-filming activities; film specifications and quality control; targets; and archival storage of

master records. These are augmented by our network-wide standards for bibliographic records. The guidelines are published in the RLG Preservation Manual.⁶

4. SHARED INFORMATION. The key to successful cooperative preservation lies clearly in the ability to communicate efficiently among partners about activities and decisions. To that end, we have enhanced the RLIN network to display preservation information prominently in on-line search results so that it cannot be missed nor will it require special or additional search techniques. We are working actively to expand the coverage of RLIN to include filming records from several sources outside of the partnership and we have published our records in microfiche⁷ to aid those without access to RLIN.

5. ARCHIVAL STORAGE. RLG has acquired a vault in an ancient, cool and dry limestone cave. It offers ideal archival storage conditions and protection from most major threats for our preservation master films. Duplicate masters and service copies are retained at the institution which owned the original material.

The Participants in the first phase of the project which began filming in 1983 included seven of RLG's university members plus the New York Public Library. About 90% of the expected 30,000 titles of the first phase have now been completed and we are well into the second phase of the program which has enabled RLG to extend its subject and time period coverage. Two additional universities and the New York Historical Society have joined in this phase and several of the original participants have expanded their focus to include serials as well as monographs. The Library of Congress has joined with the RLG program both in its planning stages and the two filming phases. It has devoted about a fourth of its filming budget to subjects and time periods which complement the filming of RLG members.

Costs and Funding. Costs vary widely and are influenced by the subject, age, condition and format, as well as institutional considerations such as wage scales, resident expertise and filming capabilities. Our costs have averaged - across all participants and for all steps - just under \$50 per volume. Care should be taken, however, if attempting to translate RLG costs into expectations for any other country; they are greatly influenced by local costs such as wage rates. (We are always looking for a less costly way to accomplish our preservation objectives, but do not, at present, have such solutions in sight.)⁸

The funding for Phase I of the project, \$1,350,000, was provided by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Phase II has been funded by an additional grant of \$625,000 from NEH. Participating institutions have contributed an additional twenty-five to fifty percent to the total expenditures for the two phases.

Extending Cooperation. While the program I have described is centered with the institutions which are owners of the Research Libraries Group, we have sought to cooperate with and coordinate with the efforts of others, and to make the program's bibliographic products available. We continue to seek actively to exchange preservation and other records for mutual benefit with a variety of partners in the US and internationally. We are at present exchanging records of preservation filming with the British Library and may in the future exchange copies of the films themselves for security and ready availability. We are in discussion with other potential international partners and we hope, in time, that we might participate in this fashion or in other ways which would contribute to the solution of the international preservation problem.

RLG's Cooperative Preservation Microfilming Program is modest in comparison to the total preservation challenge, but its contribution is of great importance to our member institutions and it has demonstrated a framework within which we can proceed effectively and step-by-step. It has also provided a clear demonstration of the positive relationship among programs. Collection Management and Development, Shared Resources and the capabilities of the RLIN network have all made critical contributions to the successes we have had in the Preservation Program.

CONCLUSION. Just as we hope this brief report of the RLG program will contribute to IFLA deliberations, we hope that the earlier and fuller report added to the work of the Vienna conference.

The real promise of the Vienna Conference, however, is to be found in the opportunity it provided for world-wide recognition of the preservation problem, in the prestigious platform it developed on which to base future efforts and on the persuasive case it presented for cooperative solutions. Most of all, we should search for its promise in the commitment of attendees to address the preservation problem in concert with their counterparts across the globe.

-- Notes --

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2. Summary Paper for the 1986 Vienna Conference on the Preservation of Library Materials; Rutherford Rogers, Yale University (USA) Librarian, Retired.
3. Preservation Policy World Wide; 1986 Vienna Conference on Preservation of Library Materials; William J. Welsh, Deputy Librarian of Congress, Washington, D.C., USA.
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5. Collecting Policies and Preservation; 1986 Vienna Conference on Preservation of Library Materials, Alexander Wilson, The British Library, London, England.
6. RLG Preservation Manual; The Research Libraries Group, Inc., Jordan Quadrangle, Stanford, CA 94305, USA; February 1983.
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Division: General Research Libraries

Section: National Libraries

158-NAT-3-E

FORMATION OF THE V.I.LENIN STATE
LIBRARY OF THE USSR STOCKS IN INTER-
ACTION WITH LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION
INSTITUTIONS OF THE U S S R

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FORMATION OF THE V.I.LENIN STATE LIBRARY OF THE USSR
STOCKS IN INTERACTION WITH LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION
INSTITUTIONS OF THE USSR

The XXVII Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union determined that "Acceleration of the social and economic development of the country is the key to all our problems: the nearest and perspective, economic and social, political and ideological, home and foreign. Only this way can lead to a new qualitative state of the Soviet society" ¹. Participation of the Soviet libraries in realization of this strategic course to a great extent depends on successful solution of the tasks connected with formation and functioning of the stocks the basis of all libraries activities.

Acquisition of home and foreign documents is determined by the status and tasks of the V.I.Lenin State Library of the USSR (GBL) formulated in the Status on Librarianship in the USSR (1984).

One of the leading provisions of the said document is an idea of creating a unique library stocks of the country. Soviet specialists determine these stocks as aggregate, distributed among the system of all country's libraries, and reflecting informational, scientific, cultural potential of society. Their ability to meet the user's demands is supported by the national system of book acquisition that takes into account the libraries requirements to the level of completeness, reliability, and operativeness of their

¹ M.S.Gorbachev. Political Report of the Central Committee of the the Communist Party of the Soviet Union to the XXVII Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. - M:Politizdat, 1986. - p. 27

stocks acquisition. This means that the stocks of universal research libraries (and the GBL is one of them) cannot develop in isolation but they are formed with account and in interaction with the stocks of libraries and information institutions of the country.

The GBL stocks are an important component part of the unique nation-wide stocks of the information and library system. Their formation is done on the basis of contemporary principles of acquisition-communist party principle, profile consideration with coordination, system, plan. The importance and essence of these principles is clearly shown in the publications selection that is based on the criterium of relative comprehensiveness of repertoire of home and foreign publications and differential approach to determining the number of copies.

Not putting before ourselves the task to characterize each of these principles we shall discuss only two of them: the communist Party principle and coordination that play decisive role in acquisition. This is so much necessary because many Western libraries have particularly wrong idea concerning the Party principle in the work of Soviet libraries: they believe that this principle means that the libraries acquire only communist publications and that Party organs perform day-by-day control over libraries work, etc.

In reality the things are quite different. The Party principle in the work of all Soviet libraries shows first of all in the general ideological direction of their work; in libraries active participation in solving all-nation goals in further development of economy, science, culture of the country. The Party principle in the field of the GBL stocks acquisition of home and foreign publications means that this work corresponds to the

tasks of communist construction, the CPSU and the Soviet Government in their struggle for peace, social progress, for raising weill-being and cultural level of the Soviet people.

The GBL foreign literature stocks come iup to 11 mln.copies, and they serve the same main tasks as the home literature stocks: i.e. serving the wide masses of working people as it is envisaged by the Soviet legislation including scientists and specialists of all fields of knowledge; preservation of monuments of home and world book culture; the GBL activities as a nation-wide information centre on the questions of culture and as a head scientifico-research centre in the field of librarianship and bibliography schience. Correspondingly the GBL acquisition scope is really universal, and though foreign publications make a significant part of the GBL new acquisitions, the Library stocks widely present social-and- economic including political literature of the most various directions. The priority given to acquisition of scientific and technical literature meets the informational demands of the larger part of the GBL users - i.e. scientists and specialists who are main users of the foreign publications. The importance of acquiring this part of the GBL stocks becomes especially significant meaning in the light of the decisions of the XXVII Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Yet priority of acquisition is given not only to the most valuable scientific and technical literature but to publications on a number of other subjects as well including official publications, Sovetica, culture and arts, international publications organisations.

Cooperation and interaction are natural principles of the national libraries stocks building up. The most popular form of

interaction-taking into consideration the GBL collections universal character- would be coordination of acquisition by the types of publications, language sign, number of copies.

An important step in realization of this task was regulating of interrelations between the GBL and the national libraries (GB) of the Union Republics. This regulation resulted in working out the "Unified Acquisition Profile of the GBL, GPB, and the Union Republics GBs with Home Printed Works" that assigned the priority right of the Union Republics GBs to acquire and keep publications in the Republic languages and determined the level of rational deplication of stocks at the leading libraries of the USSR Ministry of Culture system. According to recommendations of the "Unified Profile..." all Union Republics GBs make corrections in the acquisition profiles of their libraries, regulate the volume and composition of the incoming publications, arrange the retrospective parts of their collections according to recommendations of the "Unified Profile..."

Practical realization of the acquisition coordination principle of the GBL and the Union Republics GBs is done in other forms as well, for example, through redistribution of the publications stocks especially important for the Union Republics libraries (especially in the Union Republics national languages). At the present time the number of transferred publications come to about 20.000 titles a year.

There are envisaged certain directions of the national libraries interaction in the field of retrospective acquisition with a view of filling the gaps in the stocks - these directions are already in the process realization. The work on clearing out gaps in the legal deposit copies at the book-stores of the All-Union

level is also coordinated. Libraries exchange information about lacking titles, mutually help each other in acquiring lacking and especially hard-to-find publications. The data about the re-distributed literature in the country serve as the information basis for this kind of work. Using the lists of duplicate literature available in the exchange stocks of Republican and regional libraries the GBL receives and adds to its stocks 3500 publications a year.

Side by side with this work the GBL, functioning as a national universal book depository within the country's united library system, is continuously striving for improving the quality of the newly acquired printed production. This task may be successfully done and is done on the basis of interaction. Thus, development of coordination between the GBL and State Archives (and first of all with the USSR Archives of Printed Works) allows the GBL to carry on consistent withdrawal of publications of little value and little use. At present the USSR Ministry of Culture approved the "List of Printed Publications not Liable for Acquisition and Storage in the GBL Stocks"; this list includes over 90 categories of publications; and it includes publications of small formats, narrow scale, ephemeral, and those that are collected and stored by the archival institutions system. The said measures allowed to raise the general information power of the stocks and to correlate the structure of new acquisitions with the structure of the Library readers and patrons.

The improvement of the USSR scientific and technical information system; the development of All-Union STI organs that are close to the GBL in their tasks and the activities scales - all this made it possible for the GBL to transfer some of its functions of storing certain types of normative technical documenta-

tion to the libraries and information organs in conformity with distribution of responsibilities within the national system of scientific and technical information. Yet the GBL continues to acquire and to use these materials within the system of operational service of its users.

It is necessary to point out the aspect of the stocks formation at the GBL while functioning as the central special information organ on culture and arts. In this field of activities the GBL sees its task in the priority formation of special subjects stocks, in widening the composition of unpublished documents received by the GBL, in further increasing its coordinating role in forming the country's united stocks on culture and arts. The Library specialists successfully realize this task today.

Acquisition of foreign literature by the GBL is determined by the document "Unified Acquisition Profile of the GBL with Foreign Publications". This document fixes the practice of the GBL foreign acquisition coordination with the largest special multi-subject and subject libraries, for example, with the State Public Library for Science and Technology (GPNTB), the State Central Research Medical Library (GCNMB), and the Central Research Agricultural Library (CNSHB), with Research Libraries belonging to the USSR Ministry of Culture including the All-Union State Library of Foreign Literature (VGBIL), and the Republican National Libraries. Official agreements are signed with the most of these libraries and, in particular, with all special subject libraries; these agreements divide the spheres of acquisition of particular categories of foreign publications. In conformity with agreements signed with the GCNMB, GPNTB, CNSHB, the GBL stopped acquisition

of dissertations, popular science, industrial, and teaching publications on technology, medicine, and agriculture as well as highly special publications on these subjects. The GBL also cut down acquisition of foreign publications on pedagogics as this literature is comprehensively collected by the State Research Pedagogical Library. In their turn the libraries participating in coordination stopped acquiring their profile yet low-used literature in the languages of Asia and Africa knowing that the GBL has these literature collections and will continue collecting this literature. The GBL and the libraries under agreement exchange non-profile publications and duplicates of those publications that are advisable for each library stocks.

The agreements signed by the GBL with other libraries also envisage concordance and cooperation in acquiring foreign periodical publications the lists of which are collated and specified every year: this work permits to cut down unjustified duplication without damaging the users' service. Important components of this system are the Union Catalogue of Foreign Books received by the Soviet Union libraries that is maintained by the GBL since 1955 with 500 participating libraries as well as current printed union catalogues of foreign books issued by the GPNTB (technology, medicine, agriculture sciences) and by the VGBIL (social-economic and humanity sciences).

The Library realizes the coordination principle at various levels: regional (with the research libraries of Moscow), Union (with the Republican libraries and first of all in the fields of patriotica and publications on culture and arts), and international where close cooperation of the GBL with the National Libraries of the socialist countries, - and first of all in the fields

of patriotica and publications on culture and arts), and international where close cooperation of the GBL with the National Libraries of the socialist countries, - and first of all in the fields of international book exchange and ILL, - permits to most rationally carry on acquisition of corresponding stocks by each of cooperating libraries, guarantees creation of comprehensive information-pervasive collections of printed publications, and at the same time permits to avoid overloading these collections with secondary marginal (to the main acquisition profile) foreign literature. Cooperation of national libraries at the international level in the spheres of acquisition, book exchange, lending, and all other spheres that affect the readers' services, in our view, is one of perspective way of solving a number of "eternal" problems that torture these libraries. The corresponding IFLA subdivisions could and should - in cooperation with the Section of National Libraries - to study the questions of such cooperation in details and to work out practical recommendations.

The system of official (with official agreements) and unofficial (through working arrangements) coordination establishes during last years permitted the GBL to stabilize the volume of annual income of foreign literature. And here a strict selection and raising of scientific, informational, and artistic value of selected for storage publications allowed to improve and widen the readers' services; the readers received over 1,000,000 copies foreign publications in 1985, not speaking about other forms of using foreign books, journals, and newspapers (for example, only at 415 exhibitions organized at the GBL in 1985 there were exhibited about 30,000 foreign publications).

Deepening of the libraries interaction at the All-Union level with a view of creating united national stocks of documents

provides necessary and practical prerequisites for developing cooperation at the international level, and, in particular, between the National Libraries of the socialist countries.

At the present time a number of research programmes, and for example, "NL in NATIS" envisage development of some important problems of the stocks formation that are of great common interest to all NL. It is planned to work out principal provisions about further regulation of documents acquisition on conventional and non-conventional information media and about activization of comprehensive acquisition of the home publications repertoire on the basis of coordinating acquisition and storage between the NL and archive institutions of the country. They study ways of the NL of socialist countries interaction in filling up gaps in their national stocks on the basis of exchange of information about lacking home publications. Considering the unity of goals in collecting the national repertoire of publications the NL of socialist countries already now make real steps towards development of cooperation.

Problems of the NL interaction with other libraries and information institutions in the field of stocks formation (and in a wide plan) have international foundation and these problems have common interest for IFLA. It would be advisable to discuss this question at a special joint meeting of Divisions of Universal Research Libraries and Special Libraries; a short review of the problem's state-of-the arts at various regions of the world should be compiled and submitted to such meeting.

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Division: General Research Libraries

Section: National Libraries

LEGISLATIVE FOUNDATIONS OF THE
NATIONAL LIBRARIES ACTIVITIES
IN SOCIALIST COUNTRIES

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Legislative Foundations of the National
Libraries Activities in Socialist
Countries

The growing informational needs of our society put before libraries the task to widen and improve their activities. Especially high demands face the national libraries (NL) as they are the largest cultural centres, institutions with large informational potential having great influence onto the level of the country's libraries work in general.

One of the decisive factors of increasing the NL efficiency lies in improving library legislation in order to provide strict reglamentation of their goals, objects and functions, their place in the library system as well as in the national information system (NATIS). It is not by chance that the questions of the NL legislation draw ever growing attention during last years both in separate countries and on the international scale.

In the present paper we give a comparative analysis of the acting legislation on the national libraries of HPR, GDR, MPR, PRB, PPR, Republic of Cuba, USSR, SRV, CSSR.¹

¹ Later in the paper the author speaking about the socialist countries means only the said countries.

According to the terminology accepted by the socialist countries jurisprudence under "legislation" we mean the totality of laws as well as other normative acts accepted on their basis (a normative act is a document of law creativity of a competent organ, that contains some juridical norms (prescription)).

The object of our analysis is the laws, i.e., acts approved and accepted by higher governmental bodies, and by -law normative juridical acts accepted by governmental bodies and some ministries (departments).

The contents and forms of the library legislation, and particularly, the NL laws in the socialist countries are rather variable which is explained by differences in the structures and competentions of the corresponding norms creative bodies as well as by historical traditions and the concrete conditions in which the NL functions. At the same time the unique social character of libraries in the socialist countries determines common features of their legislation.

First of all - this is a detailed juridical reglamentation of the main directions of the library activities that creates a strong juridical basis for them because librarianship in all socialist countries is an object of governmental care. The socialist state thinks about a strict legal reglamentation of the libraries, considering libraries as important ideological, scientific-informational, and cultural

institutions that make a great contribution into development of the people's economy, science, and technology, into educating working people in the ideas and spirit of Marxism-Leninism, into increasing the man's spiritual wealth. And special attention is paid to NL - the state depositories of home and foreign literature, the largest universal research libraries, the leading institutions of the country's library system.

Multitudinity of normative acts on NL typical of the socialist countries is explained by the dynamic development of librarianship and the necessity in continuous modifications in its legal reglamentation. Being very sensitive to developing social demands the socialist state timely changes and modifies the existing library legislation.

Another feature is a systems approach to the legal reglamentation of library activities which is expressed in the fact that libraries of all types are seen in the legislation as a unified system united by the common goals and objectives and acting as one component of the national information system.

Correspondingly, the activities of NL as an organic component and a part and parcel of the library system and NATIS in general are regulated not by some single legislative act but by a totality of interrelated normative acts of general character concerning all libraries of the country, STI agencies, archives, as well as by special acts devoted

specially to NL.

Before analysing various separate normative documents on NL let's stop at the type of documents typical of the socialist countries - the documents that are not real legislative acts yet they are very important for libraries. We speak about documents of communist and workers' parties that play a leading role in all mechanisms of the socialist state. As a leading and directive power of the socialist society these parties provide for successful activities of the state, for planned and scientifically founded character of its activities, determine the ways of socio-economic and spiritual progress. Taking into consideration the increasing role of libraries at socialism the leading parties determine the main tasks and directions of the librarianship development. The lines formulated by the parties are realised by subsequent adoption of corresponding legislative and by-law acts.

Provisions concerning libraries are present in such important documents as party programmes, party congresses materials. Thus, the Programme of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany adopted in 1976 reads as follows: "The Party puts a task of raising the library work at such level.. that would correspond to the growing demands of the socialist society and the international situation of the GDR" [4, p. 52].² Development of librarianship is on the list of

² See the attached Bibliography.

the most important tasks of perfecting the people's spiritual life of the 12th Congress of the Bulgarian Communist Party theses [24, p. 79]. The 26th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in its Decisions also underlined the necessity of widening the public libraries network, enhancing their role in communist education, organisation of amateur creative work, and the working people's leisure time [1, p. 182].

The communist and workers' parties take decisions specially devoted to libraries. Here is an example - Decision of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union of May 8, 1974, "On Enhancement of the Role of Libraries in Communist Education of the Working People and in Scientific-Technological Progress" [7, pp. 20-23]. The ways of solving the tasks put forward by the Communist Party were fixed in several by-law acts, and in particular, in the Government decrees and the USSR Ministry orders on increasing the V.I. Lenin Library role as the methodological and coordinating centre in some library activities.

Another example - Decision of the Central Committee of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party (MPRP) of April 15, 1960, that formulated the tasks of libraries as active assistants of the MPRP and the Mongolian People's Republic government in disseminating Marxist-Leninist world outlook and in propaganda of newest developments of science and technology.³ The Decision of the Council of Ministers

³ See: Bayanzul M. Librarianship in the Mongolian People's Republic for 45 Years. - Librarianship and Bibliography Abroad, 1968, iss. 26, pp. 3-14.

of the MPR "On Librarianship and the Measures of Its Further Improvement" of July 27, 1968, makes the above provisions more concrete and juridically fixed [12]. One of the latest party documents on libraries is the one adopted in December 1984 by the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the SUPG - it is a special decisions about the tasks of libraries in the developed socialist society [26, pp. 103-106].

The Constitution, the Fundamental Law of the socialist state, is the juridical basis of legislation. The general provisions of the Constitution about the rights of citizens to enjoy the cultural benefits receive further development in the legislative acts concerning libraries and mentioned below.

The normative acts approved and adopted by the higher bodies of the state power occupy the first place in the hierarchy of legislative acts.

Laws have the highest juridical power: all other normative acts are called by-laws - they must strictly correspond to laws and issued on the basis and in the line with law. The leading position of the law among other legal norms is a clear manifestation of the socialist law democratism; because the law is an act of the real representative organ elected by the people who possess total fullness of power in the state. As a rule the laws concern the library system as a whole. For example, Library

Law of April 9, 1968, approved by the PPR Sejm [42].

The Governmental decrees occupy the first place in the group of by-law normative acts. Usually they are devoted to general questions as well as to separate directions of activities of all libraries or of different library types.

The next stage is occupied by normative acts (orders, instructions) of ministries and departments to which the NL submit. This is the largest group of by-law acts that regulate the overwhelming number of questions concerning the NL activities. The NL Statutes are, by the way, approved by ministries and departments. Acts of this subgroup are issued by the ministries and departments within their jurisdiction and they cannot contradict the Government laws and decrees.

Co-subordination of by-law normative acts is clearly seen in the GDR: following the decree of the GDR Council of Ministers of May 31, 1968, "On the Tasks of Library Systems in the Period of Building of Developed Socialist System in the GDR" [44] the GDR Ministry of Culture during 1970-1976 approved ten orders in connection with Decree 1968 on separate types of libraries and on different library functions including the universal research libraries of the district, the central subject libraries, international lending, and international book exchange in the GDR, etc.

The same sub-group includes normative documents of ministries and departments that have the right to issue acts

compulsory for other ministries (on problems of planning, financing, labour, etc.). For example, Decree No 26 of the USSR State Committee on Labour and Social Problems of January 21, 1977, that approves qualification characteristics of the workers of cultural and educational institutions (including libraries) [3, pp. 94-99].

Very often the legislation of socialist countries approves joint normative acts of ministries and departments concerned with library work. For example, Decision of the ministries of culture and arts, science, higher education and technology, and of the Scientific Secretary of the Polish Academy of Sciences of April 26, 1979, "The Principles and Plan of Specialisation of Library Stocks, the Role and Tasks of Central Libraries" [48].

Of considerable interest is such new form of a joint normative act as the General Agreement on Cooperation between Five Organisations of the CSSR: Federal Ministry of Technological Development and Capital Investments, Ministries of Construction and Technology of the CSR and SSR, and Ministries of Culture of CSR and SSR. The document that came into force from January 1, 1983, envisages further development and interrelation of the system of scientific, technological and economic information (STEI) and the unique library system [32].

And at last a separate sub-group includes the acts issued by interdepartmental state bodies. For example,

the normative documents of the State Interdepartmental Library Committee at the USSR Ministry of Culture (SILC) that has a right to approve decisions compulsory for ministries, state committees, departments, and other institutions having libraries. For example, one of the SILC acts is called "Status on International Library Lending of the Soviet Union" of 1976 [11, pp. 48-50].

By their contents the normative acts concerning the NL activities in the socialist countries may be divided into the following groups.

1. Acts regulating the work of the country's libraries as a whole, for example:
 - acts on librarianship of a general character (library laws);
 - acts on separate library types or separate library functions.
2. Acts on the systems of scientific and technological information and archives in the parts concerning their interrelations with libraries.
3. Acts specially devoted to NL.

Basic for NL are the acts on librarianship of a general character as these acts formulate the main tasks, aims, and principles of activities of all libraries in the country as well as they determine the NL place in the library system. The press often calls these acts "library laws" though real library laws are now approved only in HPR (19),

PPR (42), USSR (8), and CSSR (47) whereas in PRB (23), SRV (13), GDR (44), and MPR (12) there are only governmental resolutions on librarianship.⁴

The library laws clearly determine the social functions and goals of libraries. The most developed wording is given in the preamble of "Status on Librarianship in the USSR", approved by the Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR on March 13, 1984, No. 10926-X, it reads: "...libraries contribute to realisation of the constitutional rights of the USSR citizens to education, leisure, freedom of scientific, technological and artistic creative work; contribute to raising political consciousness and to forming active life position of the Soviet people: their education in the spirit of communist attitude to their work, ideological conviction, irreconcilability to bourgeois ideology; in the spirit of Soviet patriotism, readiness to defend socialist Fatherland, internationalism, friendship and brotherhood of peoples. The libraries render assistance in wide dissemination of scientific and technical knowledge, introduction of scientific and technological developments into social practice." (8).

The CSSR Library Law Para 1 reads as follows: "The task of libraries, as important and effective tool of mass socialist education, consists in assisting in all-sided

⁴ The Republic of Cuba now has the Law on the Unique Library System under consideration.

education of the working people in the spirit of scientific world outlook and in helping them to raise their political, cultural level and production qualifications; a very important task consists in furthering scientific and technological development, dissemination of their achievements and in assisting in solving political and economic tasks, as well as in developing creative initiatives of the people that struggle for the victory of socialism." (47).

The HPR Library Law paras 1 and 6; the GDR Library Law Preamble and para 2; the MPR Library Law; the PPR Library Law Art. 1 determine the libraries' social functions as well.

Another point typical of all socialist countries' library laws is legal provision of unification of libraries of all types and departments into a unified state system of library services for the population. The forms of interrelations of libraries within the unified system have their specificity in different countries; yet all these library laws are based on Lenin's idea about librarianship centralisation on the principles of socialist planning, coordination and cooperation of library networks with a view of maximum effective use of the country's library resources.

All library laws have special articles on national libraries. In PRB (Art. 6) about the Cyrill and Methodius National Library; in HPR (para 7, p. 2) - about the

F. Secenyi State Library; in SRV - about the National Library in Hanoi. In the GDR Library Law of 1968 [4, p. 2] the German Library in Leipzig (Deutsche Bucherei - DB) is called National Library, and the German State Library in Berlin (Deutsche Staatsbibliothek) - the Central Research Library. Yet, later on the legal acts put some state functions onto the German State Library in Berlin. Thus, at present the National Library functions are divided between these two libraries.

According to the Library Law of MPR the functions of the National Library are placed on the State Public Library in Ulan Bator; in PPR - National Library in Warsaw (Art. 18); in the USSR - the V.I. Lenin State Library of the USSR. In the CSSR the functions of the National Library belonged to the State Library of the Czechoslovak Republic in Prague [4]; yet, after approving the Law about federative status of CSSR in 1969 there were formed two respective library systems (in CSR and in SSR) headed by two ministries of culture. So, now the NL functions are performed by the State Library of the Czech Socialist Republic in Prague (for CSR) and by the Matica Slovenska in Martin (for SSR).⁵

⁵ The Matica Slovenska, unlike all other mentioned libraries, is a complex institution acting as the NL and at the same time as archives and museum.

The principal library of the country in the Republic of Cuba is the Jose Marti National Library in Havana. This is stipulated by Law No 1323 of November 30, 1976, concerning the organisation of the central state administration.

Unification of libraries in the socialist countries into unified library systems requires legal regulation of their activities main aspects. Among numerous normative documents of this type it is necessary to mention the legislative acts concerning the legal deposit of printed works that are present in the library laws of all countries. At the present time they are working out new draft laws on this issue; the model law on the legal deposit that has been worked out by the socialist countries experts is taken as the basis of the new law [30].

Great attention is paid to the problems of acquisition and storage of library collections. For example, the USSR Ministry of Culture and the USSR State Committee on Publishing, Polygraphy, and Book Trade in 1982 issued an order "On the Measures for Improving Acquisition and Use of the Library Book Stocks" [6]; this order is aimed at more planned and wide growth of the public libraries stocks; and some provisions concern NL and a number of large research libraries as well.

Organisation of depository storage of low-used literature that still has scientific and cultural value is envisaged by Regulations approved in 1974-1975 by Minister

of Culture, Chairman of the USSR Committee for Science and Technology, President of the USSR Academy of Sciences, and by Minister of Higher and Specialised Secondary Education [9]. According to these Regulations the largest universal research libraries (including the Lenin Library), scientific-and-technological libraries, special libraries as well as All-Union and Central Subject Organs of scientific and technological information are charged with the functions of All-Union depositories. All libraries irrespective of their departmental belonging hand over the low-used literature to depository storage, and if/when necessary they receive this literature from the depositories through the Interlibrary lending scheme.

HPR, GDR, the USSR, and the CSSR have legislative acts on the state system of interlibrary lending. For example, the act of the CSR Ministry of Schools and Culture of June 25, 1963 [45] obliges the libraries entering the unified system to provide their readers with all required publications available at any library of the country. With a view of economical use of the stocks the system envisages a step-scheme of the demands meeting: in case the demanded publication is absent in the library, the demand is transferred to a library of the higher level, and only in case of absolute necessity the demand is sent to other countries on the international library lending basis. The books on the interlibrary lending scheme are provided

free of charge; the post charges being paid by the library.

Some countries have normative documents about organisation of research work in the field of library science (PRB, the USSR); about coordination of bibliographic work in the country (GDR, CSSR /SSR/); about international book exchange (PRB, GDR); about standardisation in the field of librarianship (PPR, the USSR).

The process of integration of libraries, the STI organs, and archives received considerable development in the socialist countries. In this connection an important place in the library work legislation is occupied by normative documents about the STI and archives systems in their parts, concerning libraries. The main acts about the STI state system provide for organic incorporation of all libraries as a whole or of some library types (research, scientific-and-technological, special). In this way these libraries fall under the general principles of scientific and informational activities; and besides this the specific tasks performed by libraries in the frames of the STI system becomes more concrete. Thus, Resolution of the CC of the BCP and the Council of Ministers of PRB No. 8 of March 15, 1973, "On Creation of the National System of Scientific and Technological Information" [20] considers the unified library system as a component part of the STI system and charges it with the following tasks:

- provision of bibliographic information through pub-

lishing printed catalogues, state and subject bibliographic indexes and reference publications;

- Provision of conditions for free use of the national book stocks at all libraries irrespective of their departmental belonging; organisation of the interlibrary lending service;

- provision of the STI organs with the necessary first sources and bibliographic information;

- development and maintaining of the unique balanced stocks of Bulgarian and foreign publications and other information media on the basis of the country's research libraries stocks.

Resolution of the CSSR government No. 237 of September 8, 1977, "On Principles of Development of the Scientific Technological, and Economic Information System" (STEI) Till 1980" [41] and further resolutions on the same subject of the CSR government No. 313 of October 19, 1977 [40] and of the SSR government No 368 of October 26, 1977 [43] - all these resolutions include specialised and research libraries into the STEI system; and one of the main tasks of improving the managerial system as a whole consists in strengthening coordination between the subsystems of this expanded STEI system.

Provisions of Resolution of the USSR Council of Ministers No. 916 of November 29, 1966, "On All State System of Scientific and Technological Information" [5] charge upon

the USSR Ministry of Culture the responsibility for wide use of the universal libraries stocks in the All-State system of reference-information service; for creation of a network of territorial depository libraries; for compiling and systematic publishing of All-Union and regional union catalogues of natural sciences and technical sciences literature; for wide development of the interlibrary lending system. This is a good example of making concrete the tasks of a scientific-informational activities of one type of libraries, i.e., universal libraries which are in charge of the USSR Ministry of Culture.

The legal provision of interrelations between libraries and archives is based on the fact that in most socialist countries the collections of research libraries include manuscripts and other materials belonging to the state archival stocks. In this connection the legal acts on the country's archives are also obligatory for libraries. As an example one may take Resolution of the HPR Presidium No. 27 of 1969 "On Protection of Archival Materials and Archives" [31] para 2 of which refers to the archival materials kept in libraries, museums, and other institutions. A similar article is present in Resolution No. 274 of the USSR Council of Minister of April 4, 1980, that approved the "Status on the State Archives Stocks of the USSR" [10]: among institutions performing the state storage of documents of the State Archives Stocks of the USSR are also cited the libraries

belonging to the USSR Ministry of Culture.

The main types of normative acts of the socialist countries specially devoted to the NL - are their Statutes approved by the higher ministry or department. Only two socialist countries side by side with the NL Statutes have normative acts of a higher level: in the CSSR (SSR) - Law on Matica Slovenska approved by the Slovak National Council in 1973 [46], and in SRV - Resolution of the Council of Ministers of 1976 "On Functions, Objects, and Rights of the National Library of Vietnam" [14].

Statutes are the most detailed and concrete normative documents on the NL; they are based on the laws and by-law acts extended to the country's main library. The Statutes of the socialist countries' NL have much in common in their structure and scope of covered questions: they formulate the NL functions and tasks, determine the library structure, its administration, legal status.

All NL have their statutes, [21, 15, 35, 36, 18, 34, 17, 38, 37] (Statute of the Jose Marti National Library in Havana is now under consideration). The legal act on the NL of SRV has a peculiar form: being in contents a library statute it was issued in development of the above mentioned Resolution of the SRV Council of Ministers of 1976 as Order of the SRV Ministry of Culture of December 27, 1980 "On the Tasks, Rights, and Organisational Structure of the National Library of Vietnam" [15].

The Statutes being documents regulating the NL activities in most details are continuously being added and revised. For example, the present acting Statute of Matica Slovenska of 1983 came into being as substitution of the Statute of 1974. Now there are in the process of modification The Statutes of Deutsche Bucherei and the German State Library (1964); the Cyrill and Methodius National Library (1970). The new Statute of the F. Srechenyi State Library was enforced in 1984; and the new Statute of the V.I. Lenin Library - in 1985.

Provisions of the statutes are further developed in the regulating documents issued and approved by National Librarians - these documents are not legal acts. For example, the Organisational Order of the CSR State Library, 1980 (Organizacni rad Status knihovny Ceske socialisticke republiky, 1980) regulates in details the interior organisational structure of the library; tasks and directions of all her departments; principles, forms and methods of management and labour organisation; rights and responsibilities of managerial workers of all levels. Another example: Regulations on the V.I. Lenin State Library of the USSR and its Departments determine the place of each department within the library structure; its direct subordination, main tasks, responsibilities and rights, the department organisation and management.

Let's analyse how the socialist countries legislation

solves the question of the NL place in the country's library system, and of its functions and tasks. In all countries the NL is the main library of the country; this provision is fixed in the library laws and further developed and specified through the system of by-law normative acts.

The PRB Library Law (Art. 6) [21] calls the Bulgarian National Library the heading institution of the united library system. The special position of the HPR National Library is fixed in para 10 of the Library Law and para 16 of the Decree of the HPR Council of Ministers No. 17 of June 7, 1976, concerning fulfilment of the Extraordinary Library Law [19]: "The National Library," says P. 1 of the Decision of the SRV Council of Ministers of 1976, "is the central library of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and at the same time it is the *basical* library of the library system of the SRV Ministry of Culture" [14].

The national libraries are called the country and the library system's central libraries in PPR, in CSR and SSR and correspondingly in the Polish Library Law [34], the Czech Library Law of 1959 [38] and Law on Matica Slovenska of 1973 [37]. "The V.I. Lenin State Library of the USSR," says ART. 13 of the "Status on Librarianship in the USSR" (1984), "is the main library of the country and it provides all its stocks at the service of wide masses of the working people" [8].

The role of NL as the leader of the NATIS library subsystem consists in performing the functions of the methodological centre for the united library system⁷ as well as of the coordinating centre for the main library activities. In this quality the NL actively participate in the administration of the librarianship in the country working together with social bodies (councils, committees) and helping the corresponding ministry (department).

Legislation envisages various forms of the NL functioning as the methodological centre. The PRB Library Law says that the Cyrill and Methodius National Library performs methodological guidance of the country's library network (Art. 6). Art. 21 of the Library Statute develops this provision in the following way: the National Library helps the Committee on the Arts and Culture Affairs in administration of the united library system guiding and coordinating the activities of methodological organs, performing methodological guidance of regional libraries, studying and popularising the libraries positive experience, organising in conjunction with the Committee on the Arts and Culture Affairs advance training seminars for library workers [21].

⁷ In Cuba this role belongs to the Ministry of Culture; in the GDR there are special institutions performing the functions of library system methodological centres. In other countries the NL serve merely as a base for working out solutions on professional questions.

Para 16 of the above mentioned Decree of the HPR Council of Ministers No. 17/1976 speaks about the F. Szechenyi State Library rendering methodological assistance to other libraries of the country [19].

Order of the SRV Ministry of Culture and Information of 1980 [15, pp. 1, 2] charges the Vietnam National Library with the task of rendering assistance to the ministry in organisation and administration of librarianship. Following this order the NL studies and determines the library activities, location and planning of the country's united library network; controls the plan fulfilment. On the basis of studying the librarianship conditions the NL prepares draft documents for the ministry concerning organisational principles, staff, material and technical base, normatives for all library types. And as soon as the said documents are approved by the government of the ministry the NL performs control of their fulfilment.

In the GDR the methodological work with libraries is mainly concentrated at the institutions that are under the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Higher and Specialised Secondary Education - the Central Institute of Librarianship and the Methodological Centre of Research Libraries and Information Organs. The German Library in Leipzig and the German State Library in Berlin act as methodological centres only for directions fixed in the corresponding legislative acts: the German Library - in

the field of the library bibliographic activities [50]; the German State Library - in the fields of ILL, IILL, and union catalogues [27], as well as in the field of manuscripts and incunabulae [25].

The State Public Library as the methodological centre of libraries of all types is called in Resolution of the MPR Council of Ministers of July 27, 1962, concerning librarianship [12]. The National Library of PPR according to Art. 18, para 4 of Library Law of PPR and para 10 of the NL Statute provides for raising the level of the libraries work [42, 34].

The V.I. Lenin State Library of the USSR by the Library Law of 1984 is named the All-Union head scientific-methodological centre for all libraries irrespective of their subordination (Art. 13). The forms of methodological help rendered by the V.I. Lenin Library to the country's libraries directly or through All-Union interdepartmental or other scientific-methodological centres are specified in the Library New Statute that was worked out on the basis of the Library Law.

The CSR Library Law and the Statute of the CSR State Library [39] envisage methodological assistance to the libraries of the united system. In collaboration with central libraries of individual networks the CSR State Library helps the libraries of all types to develop and to raise the level of their ideological influence and

politico-educational activities; functions as the methodological centre of the public libraries network; prepares materials on management for the CSR Ministry of Culture in the fields of librarianship and bibliography; studies, generalises, and propagates the advance experience of the home and foreign libraries and, first of all, the libraries of the USSR and other socialist countries (Statute, para 3).

According to Instruction of the SSR Ministry of Culture of 1977 about methodological work in the SSR library united system [33] and the Statute of Matica Slovenska, para 1 [37] the Library functions as the scientific-methodological centre of the library united system and the methodological centre on library building and equipment, as well as on automation of library and bibliographic processes. Para 7 of the Statute envisages such forms of work as compiling of perspective programmes of the library united system development, control and estimation of their fulfilment, working out draft legislative laws, organisation of methodological seminars on improving acquisition, processing, and preservation of stocks, publishing activities, and rationalisation of library processes.

In some socialist countries they dispute the question about further expansion of the NL rights as library system methodological centres and, in particular, about the right to control the work of other methodological centres of library

networks and individual library institutions. Recommendations of 11th Working Meeting of the Centres of Scientific-Research and Methodological Work of the Socialist Countries' Libraries (Sofia, 1982) point out the necessity in closer ties between the administrative bodies and methodological centres, in clearer differentiation between their functions [2].

From this point of view our interest can be attracted by the document "Main Directions of Creating a Unified System of Social Information in PRB"⁸ accepted in PRB in 1984 and approved by the Political Bureau of the CC of BCP. This document envisages strengthening of unity between the administrative and the methodological management of the library system: Chief Librarian now at the same time is the head of the Librarianship Administration organ, i.e., Directorate of Libraries Amalgamation at the Committee on Culture Affairs. The National Library together with the Directorate of Amalgamation are charged working out draft documents and proposals on the library system development as a whole and for the library network of the Committee on Culture Affairs.

All NL play a role of coordinating centres in their library systems. The Law specifies the library work direction or library types joined by coordination. Being the centre

⁸ See: Kalajdzhieva K. 40 Years of Socialist Librarianship. - Bibliotekar, 1984, No. 9, p. 6.

of coordination the NL compile the development prognoses, summary perspective and current plans, organise joint work of libraries belonging to the same united system, try to eliminate unfounded parallelism of library processes.

The PRB Library Law determines in a general form the task of the NL as the coordination centre for the country's library system (Art. 6); whereas the Library Statute makes this task concrete in the following way: the NL coordinates the work of library methodological organs of various departments and institutions (Art. 21); coordinates the work of the country's research libraries (Art. 22); guides research and editing-publishing work of all libraries (Art. 18); functions as the national centre of the international book exchange including exchange of official publications and publications of international organisations (Art. 24). It is necessary to specially point out the mechanism of the Library coordinating activities that is fixed by the PRB legislation. According to Art. 6 of Library Law that reads: "With a view of creating a rational system of research libraries in the country, and with a view of eliminating duplication and providing unification of library processes ... "the NL and five central research libraries heading the library network of the corresponding field and subject, i.e., the Central Library of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, the Central Technological Library, the Central Agricultural Library, Central Medical

Library, and the Sofia State University Library - they all function as a "common library entity".

The directors of these libraries continue to act and function within the systems of the corresponding departments and institutions but at the same time they are deputies to the National Librarian. Soon after the Committee on the Arts and Culture Affairs approved the PRB Library Law there were also approved "Main Rules of the National Library and the Central Research Libraries Functioning as All-Libraries Organisational Entity [22]. The corresponding provisions are present in the NL Statute (Art. 22). The chief leader and coordinator of the Amalgamation is the Board of Directors of the Central Research Libraries headed by the National Librarian. The Board is responsible "for creating and maintaining an effective organisation of library and bibliographic services"; it discusses and performs organisational-methodological functions concerning the Central Research Libraries; it submits to the attention of the Interdepartmental Coordination Council of the Committee on the Arts and Culture Affairs draft normative acts and recommendations to departments on improving their libraries work; it coordinates the library and bibliographic work of the research libraries and the informational activities of the STI organs.

The Board has committees on various directions of library work: acquisition of library stocks, reference and

bibliographic work, processing and arrangement of collections, scientific-research, and publishing activities, etc... These committees are responsible before the Board for the work in the respective direction. For example, the Acquisition Committee is responsible for creating the State Stocks of Contemporary Scientific Literature; the Committee discusses and organises such measures that guarantee high quality bibliographic selection, quick delivery of literature from abroad, its distribution according to the libraries subject orientation. The Committee coordinates receiving of foreign literature purchased for foreign currency, and, in particular, it coordinates the libraries annual subscription to scientific periodical publications.

The F. Szechenyi State Library in correspondence with para 10 of the Library Law and para 16 of Resolution of the HPR Council of Ministers of 1976 that endorsed the Library Law - was declared the centre of scientific-research work in the field of librarianship, and the centre of home and international book exchange and also the centre of ILL and IILL. Order of the HPR Minister of Culture No. 5 of December 12, 1976, "About Organisation and Functioning of the Library System" [29] charges the NL also with responsibilities of the coordination centre for public libraries and territorial library associations (Annex 4 to Resolution).

Resolution of the SRV Council of Ministers of October 9, 1976, No. 401 [14] and Order of the Ministry of Culture and Information of December 27, 1980 [15], charge the National Library of Vietnam with coordination (together with other large libraries) of library work in the fields of compiling union catalogues, acquisition of foreign literature, book exchange, and ILL.

The German Library in Leipzig is the leading and coordinating institution in the field of bibliographic work [50]. Every year it works out conception of bibliographic work development in the country for the coming year; it receives from all institutions that issue bibliographic indexes their working plans, evaluates them and does its best to prevent and eliminate parallelism; compiles and publishes at the beginning of each year the "Plan of Bibliographic Work in the GDR".

The German State Library in Berlin controls and coordinates the work of the country's libraries in the field of home [27] and international [49] ILL. Order of the GDR Ministry of Higher and Specialised Secondary Education of August 1, 1972, charges the Library with coordination of the work with manuscripts and incunabulae [25].

Statute of the MPR State Public Library [18] envisages the NL coordination of public and special libraries work [para 10]; it is specially pointed out that the NL is the coordination centre of ILL and IILL [para 1].

Art. 18 of the PPR Library Law and para 10 of the

National Library in Warsaw charge the Library with responsibility of coordinating the work of libraries belonging to the nation-wide network in the fields of bibliographic and information work, ILL, preservation and conservation of library materials, book exchange, standardisation and rationalisation of library processes, introduction of the new technical developments.

The V.I. Lenin State Library of the USSR in conformity with Art. 13 of the USSR Library Law functions as the All-Union coordination centre of scientific-methodological and scientific-research work in the fields of library science, bibliography science, and book science as well as the centre of recommendatory bibliography and ILL.

The coordination functions of the CSR State Library are detailly formulated in its Statute: the State Library as the coordination centre of the public libraries network [para 3] in cooperation with the networks central libraries coordinate the work of all types of libraries [para 3]; specially specified are the Library's tasks in the fields of bibliographic work, ILL and IILL, international book exchange, foreign acquisition (within the system of the CSR Ministry of Culture); scientific-research work in the fields of librarianship and bibliography [para 2].

The Matica Slovenska as well as the CSR National Library coordinates bibliographic and scientific-research work of the SSR libraries (para 2 of the Matica Statute);

besides this the Library coordinates the work of the library scientific-methodological centres as well as the SSR libraries cooperation with the CSR library system and the STEI system. The coordinating functions of the Matica Slovenska in the fields of methodological and bibliographic work are regulated in details by the instructions issued by the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Socialist Republic [39].

As an example of coordination work organisation of the NL in one of the library work directions let us take the system of coordination of bibliographic activities in Slovakia stipulated by Order of the SSR Ministry of Culture of 1980. The Ministry of Culture directs coordination; the Matica Slovenska is the main coordinating centre; it collaborates with central subject and regional coordination centres.. The system of coordination comprises both libraries and scientific information organs. The Matica Slovenska works out draft decisions of the party and state organs on the problems of bibliography; prepares long-time prognoses; development conceptions; plans; together with the subject and regional coordination centres the Library evaluates draft plans of bibliographic work eliminating duplication and lacunae; registers the planned and in-publishing bibliographic indexes; works out theoretical, methodological, and organisational problems of the Slovak bibliography; prepares documents on standardisation of

bibliographic work; systematically studies bibliographic needs; evaluates effectivity of bibliographic services on the results of the feedback studies, and introduces the necessary corrections into the acting system; organises the advance training courses for bibliographers.

There is a distribution of responsibilities between the Matica Slovenska and the other coordination centres: the main centre besides solving general questions is directly responsible for coordination of bibliographic activities in the field of national and regional bibliography as well as in the fields of science, culture, education, library science, bibliography science, ethnography, slavistics, linguistics, arts, arts science, literature science, historiography, the CSSR local lore, museology, and bibliography of the Slovak culture personalities. Subject and field centres perform coordination of bibliographic work in the respective subject fields. Regional centres (district and regional libraries) perform coordination within their regions.

The chief coordination organ - the Coordination Council - works under the Matica Slovenska Chief Librarian; it consists of the NL workers and representatives of the central subject and regional coordination centres. The Council members are appointed and released from the duties by the Matica Slovenska Chief Librarian; decisions of the Council are compulsory to all coordination centres.

Through the comparative analysis of the socialist countries legislative acts it is possible to single out the following tasks and functions inherent to the National Libraries.⁹

1. Acquisition, organisation, preservation and availability of the stocks of the home printed production, manuscripts (as a part of the state archival stocks), audiovisual materials as well as foreign publications. Concerning the home publications the laws of all countries stipulate for the maximum comprehensive acquisition and permanent storage; the NL of PPB, MPR, the German Library in Leipzig, and the CSR State Library perform functions of the country's printed production archives.

Concerning acquisition of foreign literature the laws envisage a kind of selectiveness: the NL of PPB acquires the most important publications in all fields of knowledge, official publications, and publications of international organisations; the NL of SRV - scientific literature; the German State Library - literature important in the scientific respect; the NL of MPR - fiction literature, scientific publications, technology, arts, required in the country; the NL of PPR - publications that are needed for development of the Polish science and culture taking into consideration the foreign acquisition specialisation of the country's research libraries; in the USSR - publications of scientific, historical and artistic value; in the CSR - the world's

⁹ We do not touch upon the question of the NL goals as the above mentioned and legislatively determined goals of the library united system wholly belong to the NL.

important literature.

All NL acquire "extrerriorika", i.e., literature about the country published abroad, and this notion may be of different contents. Thus, the Deutsche Bucherei collects the world's printed production in the German language; the Matica Slovenska - foreign literature about Slovakia and Slovaks; the Cyrill and Methodius National Library - materials on history and culture of the Bulgarian people from the appearance of Bulgarian written language to our days.

2. The Law charges all NL with international book exchange with the exception of the Deutsche Bucherei the Matica Slovenska, the MPR NL, and the PPR NL.

3. Stocks processing and providing their contents through the system of catalogues; centralised processing of all or some types of publications. For example, the German State Library performs centralised processing of foreign literature acquired by the GDR research libraries; the V.I. Lenin Library - the home map and musics publications.

4. Compilation and publication of the national bibliography. Publication of the current national bibliography is fixed by all library laws to their NL with the exception of the USSR where this function is performed by the All-Union Book Chamber; the retrospective national bibliography is published by all NL including the V.I. Lenin Library.

5. Maintaining of the union catalogues of foreign publications available at the country's library collections.

This task is envisaged by the legislative acts of all countries except MPR. In CSSR this function is performed by the State Library in Prague for the whole country, and in the GDR - by the German State Library in Berlin.

6. Compilation and publication of bibliographic indexes of scientific-auxiliary and recommendatory character - is a task inherent to all NL.

7. Services to the library readers through providing them with all collections at the reading halls; reference-bibliographic service to readers, organisations, and institutions; propaganda of literature and library-bibliographic knowledge through exhibitions, lectures, reviews and other mass arrangements - all these tasks are charged to all NL.

8. Charging and receiving through ILL and IILL the publications required by readers and organisations - this function is envisaged by the NL legislation of all countries.

9. Carrying of scientific-research work in the field of culture and arts - this function is performed by the NL of SRV, Republic of Cuba, MPR, the USSR and CSR.

10. Carrying of scientific-research work in the field of library science. This function is envisaged by legislation of all countries. Besides this function PPB, PPR, SSR, and the USSR include the field of bibliography; SSR - scientific information; the Cyrill and Methodius National Library in collaboration with other scientific institutions carries on

research work in the fields of paleography, archives, science, and Oriental sciences.

11. Methodological work with the country's libraries; coordination of the libraries activities.

12. Participation in training and advance training of the library workers is fixed in the NL legislation of all countries except PPB.

13. International cooperation with libraries of other countries is envisaged in the NL legislation of SRV, PPR, CSR, and the USSR.¹⁰

The specific tasks performed by some NL include: the centralised control of the country's libraries, collection and submission to the HPR Ministry of Culture and to other interested institutions of the data about the united library system - this function is performed by the F. Szechenyi State Library; the Deutsche Bucherei has in its structure the German Museum of Written Language and Book and the German Museum of Paper; the V.I. Lenin Library has in its structure the Book Museum; and the German State Library has the Central Institute of Photodocuments of Science, Research and Education (the German Phototheque) that is located in Dresden.

The above given analysis of the legislative foundations of the NL activities in the socialist countries permits to draw the following conclusions:

¹⁰ Active cooperation with foreign librarians and first of all with the socialist countries' libraries is practically done by all NL.

the NL activities in the socialist countries are based on a firm juridical foundation which provides for their maximum effective work.

The NL legislation in the socialist countries not only corresponds to the recommendations of UNESCO and IFLA contained in their two documents: "The Role of National Libraries in the National and International Information Systems. The Main Provisions Accepted at the Conference of Directors of National Libraries (Lausanne, August 20-21, 1976)" [16] and "Legislative Foundations of Introducing NATIS (Paris, UNESCO, 1977)" [28], but it goes much further meeting the growing informational demands of socialist society. The first of the said documents recommends to the NL, as the leading institution of the NATIS library sector, to start among other burning issues "the legislation to provide at the necessary level the organisational basis for libraries, library services, and library processes... legislation and support of various interests of the library users, authors, publishers..." (Art. 15). It is stressed that "It is very important that the acting legislation and the real situation of the national information system provided each national library with a possibility to effectively perform its main functions that could not be fulfilled by any other organisation" (Art. 17).

The second document, Ch. 2, pp. 55-62 formulates the questions that are recommended to be fixed by legislation

in respect to the NL:

- acquiring as far as possible and comprehensive legal deposit of the home printed production;
- providing all citizens with materials unavailable at other institutions;
- - compiling the national biography and other bibliographic aids;
- organising international exchange of official publications;
- organising home and international book exchange;
- providing centralised cataloguing;
- responsibility for rational acquisition of foreign publications by the particular types of libraries;
- participation in spreading and improving of library services and the libraries educational work.

As seen, both the general provisions of the first document and the concrete recommendations of the second document have been fully realised at the library legislation of the socialist countries. In fact, the library legislation reflected all questions and directions of the NL activities as a component part of the united library system and of the NATIS as a whole, and as the largest cultural and informational centre of the country. At the same time the scale and the complexity of the socio-economic and ideological tasks dealt with by the socialist countries, put before the NL new and ever more primary tasks that demand

reviewing and modifying the existing legislation. Under such conditions exchange of information and joint researches of the socialist countries NL acquire particular importance.

Collaboration of the socialist countries' NL in preparation to the 51st Session of IFLA Council, in preparation of their General Review of the NL legislation in the socialist countries - this act was the first step in this direction.

The V.I. Lenin Library now works on creation of the Data Base on Legislation on the National Libraries in the World - and this will also serve and contribute to the creation of documentary basis for studying the above problem.

Starting from 1984 the Data Base accumulates the texts of legislative and by-law acts as well as factual data about the state of the NL activities legislative provision. This work is carried on within the frames of the programme of the IFLA Section on National Libraries. And we are sure that the V.I. Lenin State Library of the USSR will receive support and assistance from many national libraries of the world.



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National Library of China in Present
State and Prospect

by

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China is a developing country with a large population, a vast territory and underdeveloped economy and education. It is at the same time a great nation of a long cultural history, which has created and accumulated an extremely rich and splendid cultural heritage during thousands of years of pursuit of civilization. In order to build China into a socialist modernized country with its own characteristics on such a frail economic basis, the Chinese government has adopted in recent years, a dominative national policy of "opening up to the outside world and enlivening the domestic economy". While in the field of culture, importance should be attached both to carrying forward and developing the cultural traditions of the nation, and to drawing on any experiences useful to the building-up of a modernized country from other cultures created and developed by other nations of the world. To conform with this principle policy, the primary task of the National Library of China is set as: to facilitate realizing the ambitious long-term goal of the nation by providing documentation and information services. Therefore, in the course of fulfilling its task, the Library itself will undergo a transition from a library characterized as an outcome of the Chinese contemporary history to the one marked with the features of the modern times.

The predecessor of the National Library is the Metropolitan Library, also known as the Library of the Department of Education, established in the late Qing Dynasty and formally opened in 1912. It has now a history of 74 years. Ever since the very first day of

its establishment, the Library has been all the time open to the general public, and only in this mere respect, it is distinguished by nature from the traditional Chinese libraries, which used to mean the storage buildings for books used by only a small group of people, usually those from the imperial families, and which had existed since the very old time in the history. After having experienced developments and changes in over 70 years, the present Library has characterized itself with the following features.

I. The holdings of the Library embodies comprehensively the progress of the Chinese civilization of over five thousand years, and reflects, to a certain extent, the accumulation of the world's culture and intellectual achievements. According to the statistics of the end of 1985, the Library's holdings totals 13,000,000 volumes (items), among which 4,010,000 volumes are Chinese books, making up 31% of the total; 2,200,000 volumes books in foreign languages, making up 17% of the total; 33,000 titles (1,280,000 bound volumes) Chinese periodicals, making up 10% of the total; 33,000 titles (4,250,000 bound volumes) periodicals in foreign languages, making up 32% of the total; 245 titles (40,000 bound volumes) Chinese newspapers, making up 0.35% of the total; 142 titles (45,000 bound volumes) newspapers in foreign languages, making up 0.4% of the total; and 1,250,000 items of other materials in various forms, making up 9.5% of the total.

Of the collections of the Chinese ancient documents, the most representative ones are as follows: over 35,000 pieces of oracle bones with inscriptions carved during 16th century B.C.; more than 250,000 pieces of rubbings from inscriptions on bronze vessels, lutes and stone tablets of the 10th century B.C. and onwards; over 2,300,000 hand-written documents written on the paper after the

paper-making was invented in the first century A.D. and wood-block-printed and movable-type-printed documents after the invention of printing during the 6th to 7th centuries A.D., of which more than 300,000 volumes are rare items. These precious documents have been of great value to the study and research on the Chinese ancient history.

In the collections of foreign publications, other than those representing modern civilization, there are also some cultural treasures inherited from the ancient time.

In the last three years, the average annual acquisitions of the Library has been around 600,000 volumes, with about 50,000 titles of books, 13,000 titles of current periodical, and 200 titles of current newspapers in languages other than the Chinese.

II. The task of preservation and conservation is arduous. Obviously, the above-mentioned more than 2,000,000 volumes (items) of the old Chinese materials are the priorities of preservation and conservation, while in addition, the numerous amount of newspapers, periodicals and books printed before 1930s, made on wood pulp paper, are in the serious situation and need certain kinds of treatments of preservation and conservation urgently. According to the estimated statistics, there are more than 4,000,000 volumes of books and materials from the Library's collections, which counts for more than one third of the total collections, need to be saved and conserved. For the last few years, two major methods of preservation and conservation have been used in the Library, one is the traditional manual repairation for preserving the originals and the other is microfilming as a means of secondary preservation, and sometimes both two are used for preserving certain items of special importance. The former method has been proved to be a very effective conservation method due to its refined techniques and skills

required. The repaired books could last for long time, provided the desirable environmental condition is available. This method however is very much labor-intensive and time-consuming, moreover, there is a shortage in qualified conservators. So, currently this method of conservation is only limited to those materials which are in so serious condition that microfilming is no longer possible. The latter one -- microfilming is at the moment being focused on the old and rare books, as well as the newspapers published 40 years ago. Since the materials needing to be undertaken for microfilming are enormous, the project is estimated, based on the present working pace, to be finished not until the end of the century, even though more than ten microfilming cameras are exclusively and continuously operating on it. For this reason, we are also keeping our eyes on the development of the new preservation techniques, which are being experimented in a number of industrial countries, either the means of secondary preservation like the optical discs or the original preservation as the mass deacidification as well as other methods of strengthening papers. We are exploring the possibilities of applying these techniques in our preservation programme, and will do so once the conditions permit. The Library is also undertaking some researches in an effort to improve the preservation conditions, such as the research on sterilization and dust elimination.

III. Services to the general public and lending to individual users are two unique and heavy jobs. Being the only one national library of the country, the Library implements all the responsibilities and duties undertaken by most of the national libraries in the world, for example, receiving depository sample copies of all the domestic publications, undertaking unified cataloguing for Chinese books and printing the catalogue cards, compiling the national bibliography (which is at the moment in the process of preparation)

and union catalogues, exchanging publications with other national libraries and institutions in other countries, providing documentation and information services to the legislative and administrative bodies of the state government, etc. Meanwhile, China is still a developing country, in which the public library system is at the low level of development, though in the last few years, it has been improved a great deal. Take Beijing, the capital, for example, there all together 28 public libraries, varied in size, with about 1500 reading seats as a whole lot. Such a scale of the facilities is by far too small for an 8,000,000 urban population. As a result, big amount of users rush into this Library every day for all sorts of purpose of reading. At the present, there are about 700 seats in various reading-rooms of the Library, while the number of users received daily averages 2300 to 2400 man/time, so it is a common problem that reading-rooms are filled to capacity. Of the total number of users received, nearly 60% are college students, factory workers and inhabitants in Beijing. To be a librarian, it is certainly a good thing to see so many ordinary users coming to use the Library. However the problem is that sometimes the professional researchers who are in desperate need of using the Library's materials could not find a place to study at the Library, because it is fully occupied. The Library is not yet in the position to find an appropriate solution for this problem. Moreover, following the conventional practice of the Library in the previous time, it now continues to issue the borrowing cards to senior specialist and high-ranking officials working in the government. By now over 12,000 individual cards have been issued, and in average there 1,000 new issues every year. This kind of practice could hardly be found in other national libraries throughout the world, and we do not

regard it as a good practice because it affects the optimum utilization of library resources. Nevertheless, it is not feasible for us to change it. These above-mentioned problems might be unique and special ones of our own Library.

IV. The Library has to share some responsibilities of professional education because of the great shortage of qualified professional librarians. There are all together about 200,000 people working in library sector across the country, while except the fact that the educational level of those working in the libraries of universities and research institutes is comparatively higher, there is only a small proportion of those working in public, factory and school libraries who have had higher education in universities and colleges. Although there have set up 38 library schools in various universities in the country, the graduates of every year number about 1,000, which is far less than what is needed. So in view of this, the Library has in 1982 established a Sparetime College for Library Workers, where library staff with high school educational background get a formal training of library science for 4 years, using mostly their own after-hours and partial working hours, thus to upgrade their education to the level equivalent to that of the college graduates. The other group of students are university graduates with formal education of subjects other than librarianship, who are trained for one year to get an overall knowledge of library profession. The main source of this College is the staff member of this Library, meanwhile some employees from other institutions of library and information sector in Beijing area are also enrolled. In 1985, the Library was entrusted to start a course of library science for the Central University of Broadcasting and Television, and for this single course only, there have been about 20,000 students

from all parts of the country registered to study. This is a 3-year course, and students are to be trained as professional librarians to work in different types of libraries across the country.

V. Library automation has been started. In May of 1984, a Hitachi M150H computer was installed in the Library, on which the following projects have been developed and operated:

a) In November 1984, we began to provide search services using ISDS tapes for both internal and outside users. Followed by the China's recent participation in the ISDS system, the ISDS National Centre of China has been set up within the National Library, which is now just working with the headquarters of ISDS on inputting the data of Chinese serials into the system.

b) Search services of LC MARC tapes was started in February 1985 for both the internal and outside users.

c) A payroll management system for staff members of the National Library of China has been developed and brought into being in December 1984.

d) The compilation of Attribution Dictionary of Chinese Characters and the programming of the supporting software for processing Chinese characters are being undertaken. So far the Attribution Dictionary in accordance with the national standard GB2312-80 -- Chinese Character Codes - Basic Set (with the inclusion of 6,763 characters) has been completed, while the supplements will be gradually added along with the promulgation of various supplementary sets of the national standard Chinese character codes.

e) A publishing management system has been developed on a micro-computer, and been put into operation. Other systems, such

as the personell management system, are still in the progress of development.

f) The communication format of Chinese MARC is under the development. A draft format has been proposed for further revision and final approval. Such a format has been worked out with a careful reference to the UNIMARC format, only some minor changes have been made in order to fit with Chinese cataloguing rules as well as special requirments for Chinese charactor processing by the computer. Once the format is finally determined, we will start preparing data for experimental processing.

For the recent years, the most overwhelming problem of the Library has been found to be the shortage of space. So that as early as about ten years ago, the government decided to build at a separate location a new library building holding a floor space of 140,000 squarmetres. After many years' of preparation and architectural designing, the construction started in September 1983. The buildign is scheduled to complete for occupation in july 1st of the next year. By that time, the total floor space of the Library, including those parts of the old buildings which are to be remained, will reach 175,000 square metres. In the new library building, there will be a stacks area for 20,000,000 volumes of books, a seating capacity for 3,500 users, an auditorium, an exhibition hall and a multi-functioning hall. 36 reading-rooms of different types and a number of study rooms are to be set up, and in addition, special reading-rooms of law, music, art as well as audio-visual materials will be established, which are brand-new sections to Chinese traditional libraries. To a certain extent, the research users will be separated from the general users

--an unique feature to suit China's special situation, however, in both the new and the old buildings, there will be large general reading-rooms to meet the general reading needs of the public. As a characteristic of a modern library, most reading-rooms will have open or semi-open book stacks.

In terms of equipments, we have decided to import a main frame computer system from abroad, with the aim that it will be capable of processing multi-script information data, both Oriental and Western languages. The software system and specific model of the machine is just being selected. As estimated, not until the year of 1990 will the system be in the full operation after all sorts of preparation such as hardware selection and importation, installation and testing, development of various softwares, etc. Other equipments, i.e. fire and theft prevention systems, book conveyer system, telephone system, etc., are also required to^{be} as far as possible the most up-to-date technology and quality by international standard, as to assure the Library a high level modern Library.

Provided everything is going on schedule, part of the reading-rooms of the new Library will be open to public on September 1st 1987. For the realization of this goal, the whole Library is now devoted into the preparation for the big removal to the new house.

In order to transform the National Library of China from a rather traditional library into the one marked with modern time features, we have, at the occasion when the new Library will soon be completed, studied the patterns of a number of national libraries as well as the nature, the functions and long-term targets of the National Library, keeping in mind the China's particular situation, thus put forward a preliminary scheme to serve as a basis for

programming and planning. The scheme is briefly described as follows.

The National Library of China is a comprehensive research library, which holds a position of the national deposit of books, and implements all the internationally recognized functions of a national library. The following described are the working principles of the National Library of China:

- Persist in the orientation of serving the people;
- Acquire, process, store and disseminate knowledge and information;
- Provide services to the country's legislative and administrative institutions, major research and production units;
- Provide professional assistance to the development of the nationwide librarianship;
- Provide a certain degree of library services to the general users, so as to promote the socialist civilization.

The detailed responsibilities are specified as follows:

a) Receiving the depository sample copies of publications published in China; collecting, organizing and keeping books, periodicals and historical documents published both at home and abroad; gradually applying new means of technology for library work, such as microfilming, computer access to information, etc., making the Library an ultimate source of bibliographical searching as well as books, periodicals and other information materials.

b) Compiling and publishing the national bibliography (including retrospective bibliography), union catalogues and catalogue of the Library's holdings; editing and distributing the national unified catalogue in the forms of printed card, microfitch and magnetic tape, so as to become a national bibliographic centre for

books, periodicals and other materials.

c) Undertaking information research and reference services on specialized topics entrusted by the state's legislative and administrative bodies as well as the individual readers by using the Library's rich resources as well as all sorts of information retrieval methods.

d) Introducing advanced ideas and transmitting knowledge of science and culture to the cadres and general public through holding book exhibitions, academic lectures, etc.

e) Carrying out step by step documentation studies and scientific research; making effort in revealing the Library's collections; increasing the professional standard of all kinds of services.

f) Undertaking researches on theory and technology of librarianship, and making the Library an information centre of library science.

g) Studying and applying modern technologies and playing a leading and pivotal role in the development of modernization, networking and standardization in the country's library field.

h) Encouraging coordination and collaboration within the Chinese library community; organizing the publication of professional books on librarianship, bibliology and information science, in an effort to promote the development of the nationwide library service.

i) Implementing the relative articles of the country's cultural agreements with foreign countries on behalf of the country; taking responsibilities for international book exchange and international library loan service; strengthening the exchange and cooperation with international library community; taking an active part in the activities concerning library and information services sponsored

by the relevant international organizations.

j) Taking an active part in training of library professionals.

I am most grateful to the ~~Chairman~~^{Secretary} of the Section of National Libraries, who ^{is} also a good friend of mine, Mr. Rugaas for giving me this opportunity to describe to everyone being present the activities of the National Library of China. I will be pleased to hear any comments and remarks on the presentation I have just made from all the respected colleagues.

Thank you.